College Assurance Plan has P2.5-B fund deficiency

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

GMA gives envoys marching orders

By Christine Herrera

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday drafted the country's ambassadors in her campaign to build a "strong republic." She issued marching orders to 12 key diplomats to bring more investments and tourists into the country, and prodded them to be more aggres-

GMA/A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

US aid cut perils UN family planning

UNITED NATIONS—Diplomats and officials were appalled at the US government's decision to cut support for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and said the move was motivated by domestic politics at the expense of women and children's health.

The UNFPA said it was "sad and shocked" at the US decision to with-

US/A6

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, July 24, 2002 ★ 56 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 226 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Senators squabble again

Pimentel wants June 3-6 'rump session' recognized as legal

By Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia Balana

THE ADMINISTRATION coalition and the opposition in the Senate declared an "indefinite ceasefire" yesterday to allow both groups to forge a common legislative agenda. But even before talks could resume in earnest, one issue threatened to cause the start of a new shooting war: the legality of the opposition's "rump session" from June 3 to 6.

Senate President Franklin Drilon called yesterday's session to order an hour and a half late. Opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. immediately tried to have the June 3-6 session recognized as official.

"We want to make it of record that (the legislative work) was legitimate, legal and a constitutional action (on our part)," Pimentel said. His move was apparently contrary to an agreement both groups reached yesterday morning to defer discussion on the issue.

If the issue comes down to a vote, the administration cannot count on its newest recruit. Sen. Robert Jaworski told the INQUIRER he would vote with the opposition in favor of recognizing the "rump session."

"I will not renege on that. That wouldn't look good," Jaworski said. With Jaworski voting with the opposition, the vote would likely be 12-12.

"Eventually, the bottom line would be that the 'rump session' will have to be voted upon. That's where another deadlock will happen," said an administration senator who asked not to be named. Earlier yesterday,

SENATORS/A19

JESS YUSON

ADMINISTRATION senators share a joke with their new teammate, Robert Jaworski, before the start of Tuesday's session. The former basketball star was welcomed by Francis Pangilinan (left), Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Manuel Villar, Renato Cayetano and Robert Barbers.

Manicurist prompted GMA to act

By Carlito Pablo

A MANICURIST who fell victim to felons gave President Macapagal-Arroyo another reason for her to take a direct hand in the war against crime.

Anita Valderama, 43, was robbed of P28,000 by knife-wielding men while she was walking home in Cogeo, Antipolo, at around 11 p.m. last Thursday.

She is no ordinary manicurist. She is the manicurist of Ms Macapagal.

Valderama said in an interview that she could have immediately called for police assistance through her mobile phone had there been a telephone line at the Cogeo police station.

Further, when Valderama, a widow with five children, reached the police station to report the incident, law enforcers could have gone after the robbers in time if there had been a radio to alert cops on the beat.

Valderama was supposed to use the money to buy materials for a modest house she was putting up on a lot the National Housing Authority awarded to her family in 1989.

"I just want the police to arrest these men," she said. "They have already victimized a lot of people in our community."

Valderama related this to Ms Macapagal on Saturday, prompting the President to cite it as an example in explaining why there should reallocation of resources to improve the government's capacity to fight crime.

MANICURIST/A19

'Where did Gloria buy galunggong at ₱60/kilo?'

By Dona Pazzibugan and Christine Avendaño

THE *GALUNGGONG* (round scad), the so-called poor man's fish, that President Macapagal-Arroyo bought at P60 a kilo may have been stale.

The President mentioned the price of the fish in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday to emphasize that her administration had kept food prices stable. She noted that the price of *galunggong* was P80 a kilo when she became President.

A housewife called dzMM yesterday morning to point out that *galunggong* sold at P60/kilo was "*bilasa*" (stale). She said the poor could buy a kilo of *galunggong* for that amount because they have no choice.

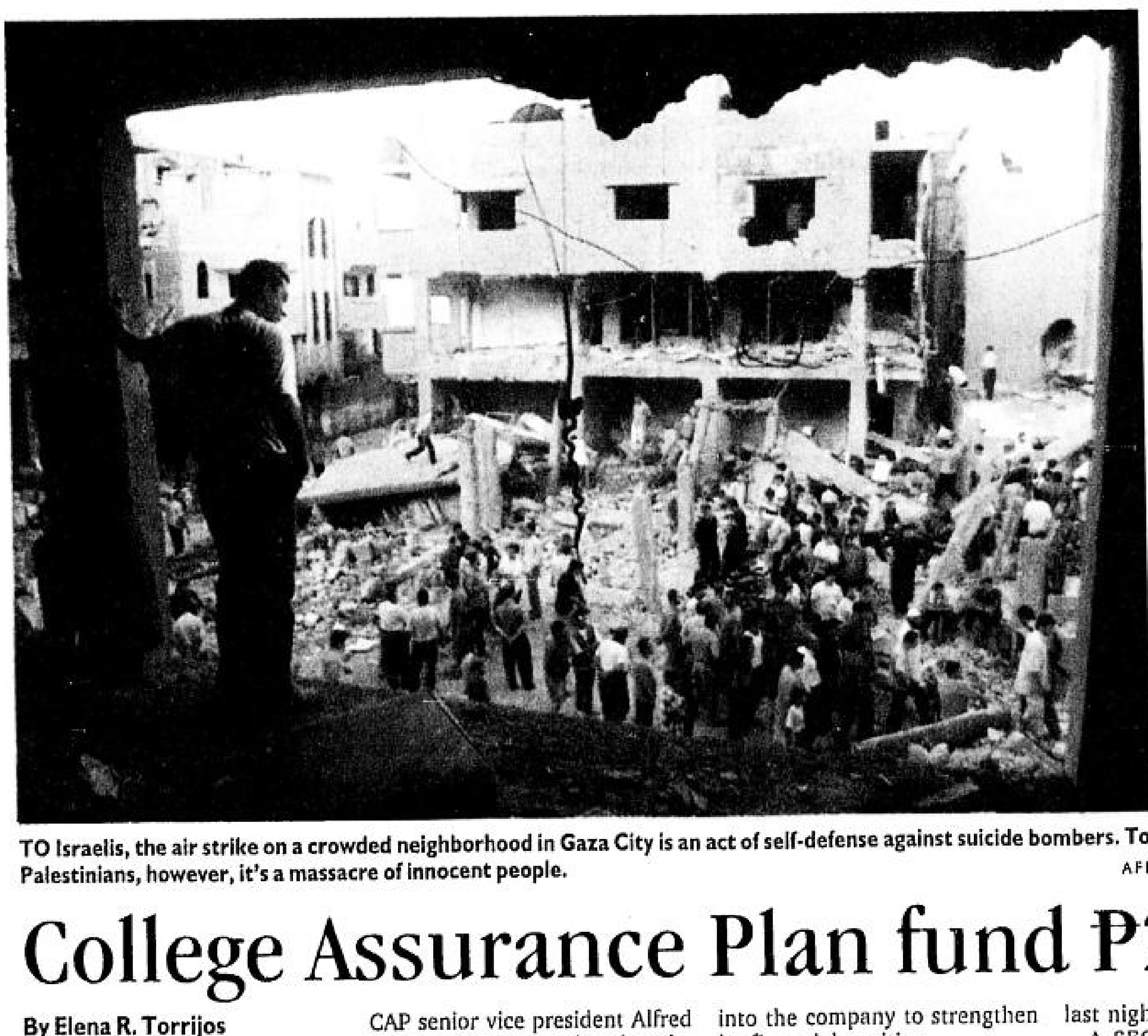
Another housewife said over dzEC that the President could be referring to small *galunggong*, which are sold at P60/kilo, she said.

In an interview aired by Headline, ABS-CBN's late night news, the President's mood swiftly turned sour when news anchor Karen Davila said that the station's own market survey disproved the President's claim about *galunggong* prices.

Ms Macapagal said she bought the fish in Quezon City at P70 per kilo.

"I bought *galunggong* in the Commonwealth Market. *At*

WHERE/A19



TO Israelis, the air strike on a crowded neighborhood in Gaza City is an act of self-defense against suicide bombers. To Palestinians, however, it's a massacre of innocent people.

AFP

Israeli air strike kills 15, including Hamas commander

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—An Israeli F-16 warplane fired a missile that flattened an apartment building in a densely populated neighborhood here early Tuesday, killing the top Hamas military commander and at least 14 other Palestinians, including nine children.

At least 145 other civilians were wounded in the air strike that obliterated the three-story apartment block and destroyed several adjacent ones.

The raid came a day after the head of Hamas said his group would consider halting suicide attacks on Israelis if Israel troops withdrew from West Bank cities.

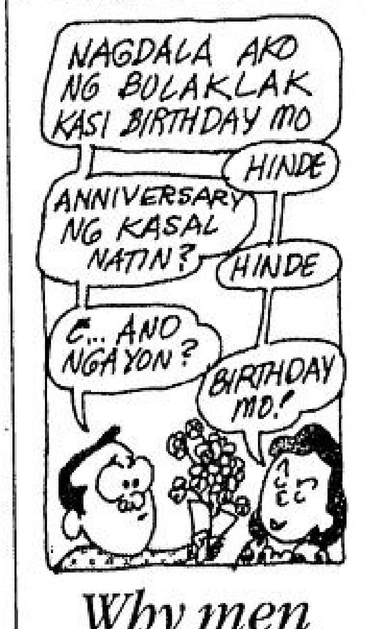
Palestinian moderates and Israeli political leaders are discussing ways to relieve tensions in the West Bank, but the raid appears likely to derail those efforts as Hamas vowed to take revenge.

The attack killed Salah Shehadeh, 48, a founder and the top commander of Hamas' military wing, known as Izzadine el-Qassam, the group said.

The group has carried out scores of attacks, including more suicide bombings than any other Palestinian faction in the current Mideast conflict.

"This operation was in my view one of our biggest successes," Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told

ISRAELI/A20



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Why men forget but women don't

WASHINGTON—Matrimonial lore says husbands never remember marital spats and wives never forget. A new study suggests a reason: Women's brains are wired both to feel and to recall emotions more keenly than the brains of men.

A team of psychologists tested groups of women and men for their ability to recall or recognize highly evocative photographs three weeks after first seeing them and found that the women's recollections were 10 to 15 percentage points more accurate.

WHY/A6

College Assurance Plan fund ₱2.5B deficient

By Elena R. Torrijos

COLLEGE Assurance Plan Philippines Inc., the country's largest education pre-need company, has incurred a trust fund deficiency of P2.5 billion, putting in doubt its ability to meet future benefits owed to some 500,000 plan holders.

Bernabe Santos, assistant to CAP senior vice president Alfred Collado, said yesterday that the company submitted last week a proposed scheme to fund the deficiency.

Last night, CAP president Enrique Sobrepeña said CAP would infuse P2 billion in capital consisting of cash and assets. He said stockholders would also infuse fresh equity into the company to strengthen its financial position.

"This is certainly good news. Once these plans push through, we can better serve the needs of our thousands of plan holders all over the country," Sobrepeña said in a statement.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was reported to have accepted the proposal last night.

A SEC official said that the agency had asked CAP to furnish it with more details regarding the trust fund buildup plan.

This is not the first time that CAP has incurred a trust fund deficiency or has made commitments to fund a trust fund deficiency.

The INQUIRER had reported that in 1999, SEC consultants found that several pre-need companies, including CAP, had substantial trust fund deficiencies.

Santos said the trust fund deficiency had grown to P2.5 billion because of the "depressed economic climate."

SEC officials, however, found

COLLEGE/A19

Second FRONT PAGE

Reyes presses OK of MLSA

By Martin P. Marfil

THE DEFENSE department is determined to push through with the approval of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement with the United States despite Vice President Teofisto Guingona's objections to some of its provisions.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has submitted the final draft of the MLSA to Malacañang and yesterday, he told reporters that he was hoping that it would be approved soon.

"We are counting on that," Reyes said when asked if they were working for its approval in time for the October joint military exercises between Filipino and American troops.

At least nine training exercises and training packages, aside from the ongoing CARAT 2002, have been scheduled for implementation starting October this year up to June next year.

Reyes' remark came after Guingona told Reyes in a letter dated June 28 that he fears that the proposed agreement would open the way for United States interference in domestic affairs, that the document had unconstitutional provisions and that it expands the Mutual Defense Treaty.

As such, Guingona said, the document should first be ratified by the Senate.

"That's his (Guingona's) opinion," Reyes said.

Guingona, in his June 28 letter to Reyes, had opposed portions contained in Part III of the MLSA.

One of the objectionable provisions, Part III (1) (a), states that the MLSA's applicability extends to "operations and deployments outside the purview of the MDT, undertaken with the United Nations Charter and as agreed upon between the two parties."

He also cited another provision, in Part III (1) (b), which states that "In times of international tension, national emergency of either party or actual hostilities, as a result of which the RP-US MDT or Mutual Board Concept Plan (Conplan) is jointly put into effect by both parties..."

Under the same contentious Part III, Guingona noted, the MLSA's applicability covers "unforeseen circumstances or exigencies, not covered by subparagraphs 1a of 1b above, undertaken consistent with the UN Charter, in which one of the parties may have a need of logistical support, supplies, services..."

Guingona said that the final draft of the MLSA could have been an executive agreement but added that it expanded its coverage outside the MDT.

"While this provision (Part III (1) (a) makes reference to the UN Charter which is an existing treaty, the MLSA commits the Philippines to an added dimension in obligation under the UN Charter," Guingona said.

"Instead of acceptance of obligations as a member-state of the UN, it (the Philippines) now obligates itself to perform acts bilaterally with the US," he added.

Commenting on Part III (1) (b) which covers US action in cases of national emergency, Guingona said that the portion goes "far beyond" the intent of the MDT, which limits action of both parties to external armed attack on either party.

This provision, Guingona said, had the effect of changing its restriction from "external attack".

"What constitutes international tension? What comprises national emergency? (There) could be a wide range of possibilities. (It is) open to an equally wide range of misinterpretations," he noted.

On his third point, Guingona noted that the UN Charter was already "broad" but added that the grant of "unforeseen circumstances or exigencies is even broader, wider."

"We are moving outside established polices to new dimensions for our nation," he said.

"This alone deserves a broader democratic base which requires Senate concurrences as envisioned by our Constitution," Guingona added.

Guingona then noted that the MLSA draft "may allow acts covered by the provision against foreign bases, troops or facilities" under the Constitution.

Guingona also noted that the draft MLSA had not answered the question of whether it would envision extending support, storage, port and other services within Philippine territory to US forces conducting operations in the region, operations which the US might consider as consistent with the UN Charter.

New war games to last 9 months

US MILITARY advisers will spend nine months in the Philippines in the next round of joint counter-terrorism operations starting in October, the military said yesterday.

The mission will involve thousands of Filipino troops and a still undetermined number of US military advisers to be deployed in camps north of Manila as well as in the south, Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell is expected to discuss the upcoming deployments during a visit here on Aug. 3, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

Powell is expected in Manila at the end of an eight-day Asian swing, in which he is also scheduled to attend a foreign ministers' meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Brunei.

"Of course, matters of mutual interest would be discussed to include the status and the way ahead for continuing the robust relationship between the US government and the Philippine government and their respective militaries," said Reyes.

More than 1,000 US troops are to end a six-month counter-terrorism operation next week in the southern Philippines where they have been helping local forces hunt the Abu Sayyaf, a kidnapping group which has been linked to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

"We are talking about expanding the already robust cooperation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US armed forces," Reyes said.

The nine-month program includes night navigation, training of at least two companies of "light reaction teams" or counter-terrorism units and eight army battalions, intelligence cooperation as well as classroom activities on strategy, Cimatu said. ***AFP with a report from Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Balikatan' goes to Sulu

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Filipino soldiers who trained under the United States military during the Balikatan 02-1 will be heading to Sulu to train their colleagues on anti-terrorism.

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said some 160 soldiers would be tasked to re-echo the Balikatan training to their counterparts there. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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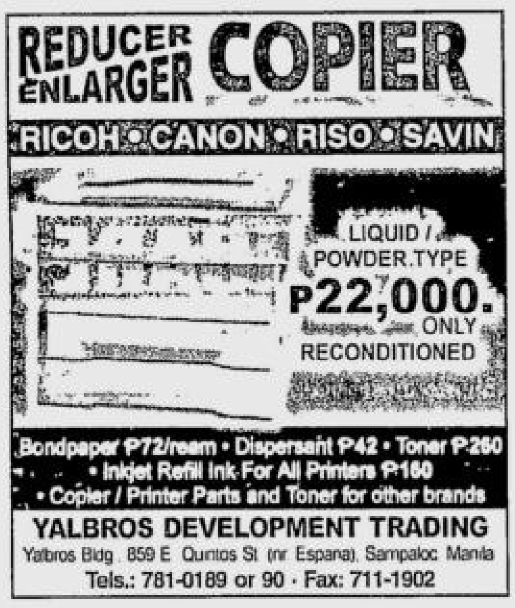
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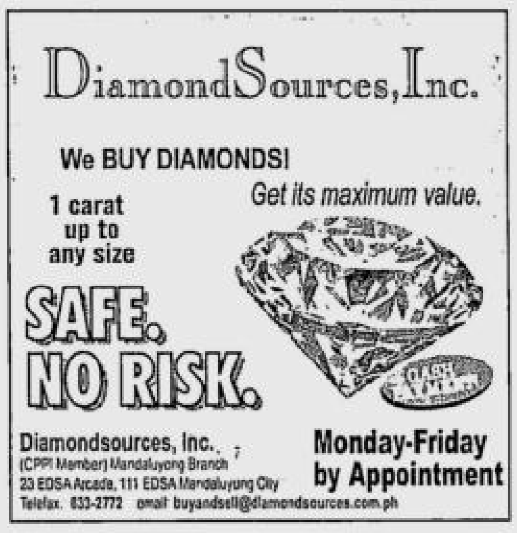
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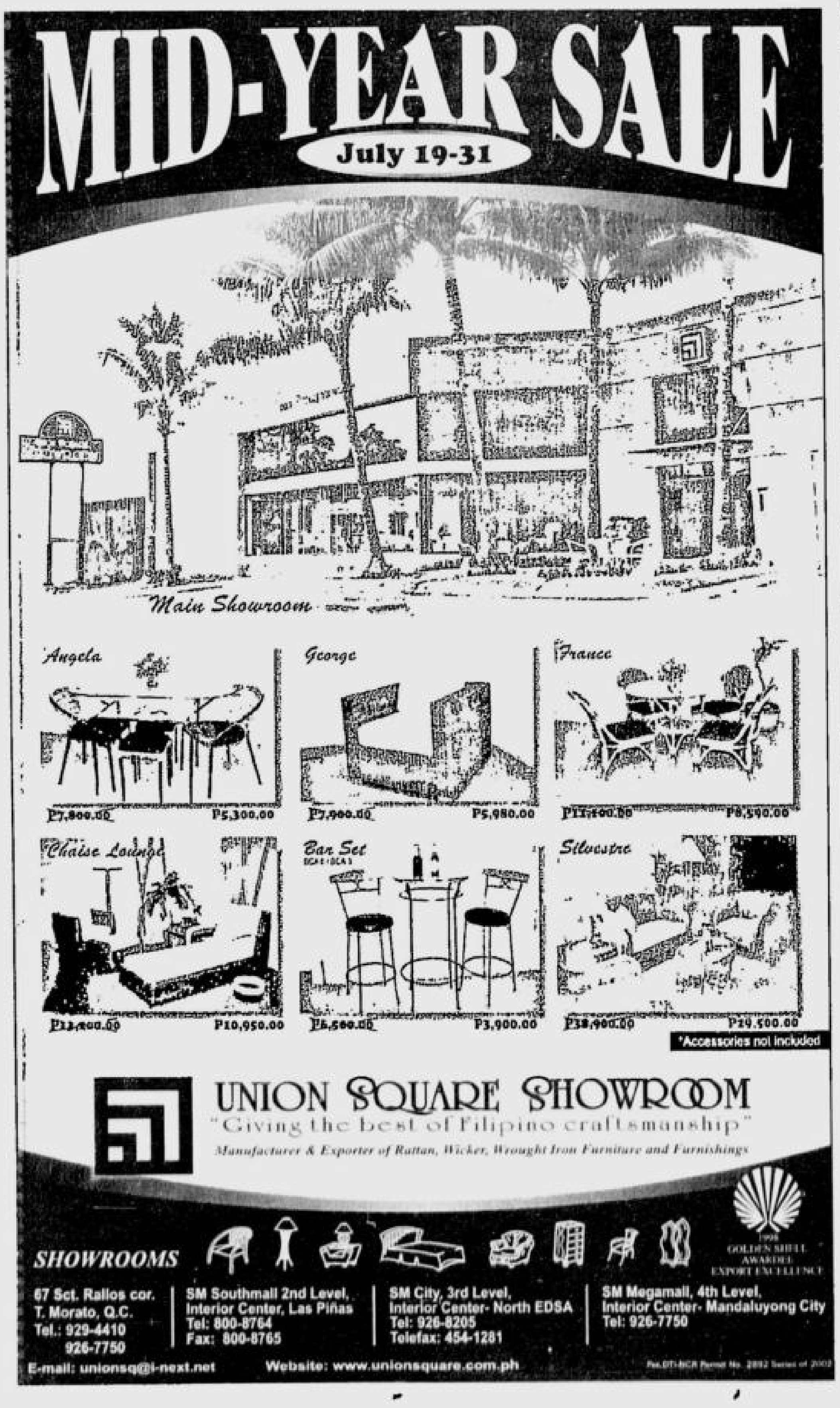
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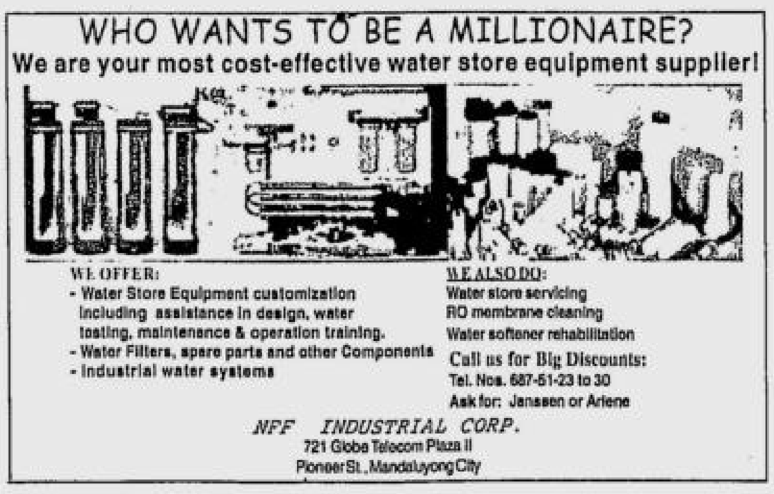
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Interpol asked to help hunt down kidnap leaders

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has sought the help of the Interpol for the capture of three alleged kidnap gang leaders who recently fled to Europe, Canada and the United States to avoid prosecution here, PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said yesterday.

Ebdane also confirmed that one of those who escaped was a certain Fajardo, alleged leader of the Fajardo gang, which is listed as one of the top two kidnap-for-ransom groups operating in the country. The other was the Bucala group.

The Fajardo gang leader had fled to Italy while the two others, whose names and group affiliations he could not recall, had gone into hiding in either Canada or the United States, he told reporters during a briefing.

"We're coordinating with Interpol (for their capture)," Ebdane said, adding that the national police would also seek the extradition of any of the three kidnap leaders from countries with which the Philippines has an extradition treaty.

He could not say if the suspects were on the hold departure list or watchlist of the Bureau of Immigration when they slipped out of the country. Individuals are placed on the watchlist after being charged in court.

Ebdane also disclosed that the Villaver group, a sub-group of the Fajardo kidnap gang, has been neutralized with the killing of three members in Marilao, Bulacan, and the arrest of three others a few days ago. Rolando Villaver, alleged head of the group, was arrested last year.

He, however, hinted that the Fajardo group was far from neutralized, noting that there were at least four other subgroups operating under it.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had directed Ebdane, who also heads the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response, to exhaust all means in crushing the 21 kidnapping groups, specifically the Fajardo and Bucala groups.

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IDEAL WORKS

Kidnapped girl, 2, rescued from pa

By TJ Burgonio

"PUT the kidnappers behind bars and do it now."

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday issued this order to the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) after announcing the rescue of a 2-year-old kidnap victim and the arrest of two suspects, including the victim's biological father.

Members of the newly formed Pacer rescued Princess Nicole Castillo yesterday, two days after she was abducted by her father, Alfred Batac, and Victor Villanueva in Bangad, Cabanatuan City in Nueva City.

The victim was recovered from Batac, 27, live-in partner of the victim's mother Evangeline Castillo. Batac was nabbed at the Isetann branch in Recto, Manila, while his cohort, Villanueva, 29, was arrested at the Baliwag Transit depot in Caloocan while waiting for ransom payment.

Batac had demanded P200,000 ransom.

Ms Macapagal said the arrest of the suspects would send a strong warning to the kidnappers "that with the help of the community, they can't hide from the long arm of the law."

The "quick solution" of the case was an indication how committed the police force is in rooting out the kidnapping problem, she added during a briefing at the Pacer's headquarters in Camp Crame.

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'Where is 2003 nat'l budget?' solons ask GMA

By Juliet L. Javellana

WHERE is the budget for the "strong republic"? And how much is it?

Leaders at the House of Representatives expressed concern yesterday over the failure of President Macapagal-Arroyo to submit the proposed 2003 national budget during her State of the Nation Address on Monday, saying this could upset the timetable for its approval.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada (Lakas) said the budget message is usually transmitted to Congress on the day the Sona is delivered in the tradition former President Fidel V. Ramos started.

The President, he said, mentions the nation's budgetary requirements alongside the government programs in the annual Sona.

"While the call for a strong republic was very much needed, we also need the tools to build this republic. And the budget for this undertaking was one component missing in her speech," Lozada said of Ms Macapagal's Sona.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II and Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval II said the budget proposal should be submitted to Congress within the week to enable the House to commence budget hearings.

Gonzales said the President actually has 30 days after the Sona to submit the budget proposal. But it would have been better, he said, if the budget message had been given on Monday.

"The advantage is that we in Congress would also be ahead of schedule. We could refer the budget to the appropriations committee right away. At least, we would not run out of time," he said.

During the administration of President Joseph Estrada, Congress failed to enact a new budget for 2001. It merely reenacted the 2000 budget.

Gonzales said the current unstable political situation in the Senate could also derail approval of the budget measure, which should come by yearend.

He expressed the fear the opposition may try to derail the President' legislative agenda in retaliation for the defection of Sen. Robert Jaworski to the administration bloc on Monday.

"I understand there were a lot of hurt feelings in the Senate and I think they will try to hit back by derailing anything the President asks from Congress," Gonzales said.

Sandoval said he expects the President to submit the budget proposal on Monday.

"We're eager to see if the President will put (the money) in the right places and where it is coming from. We hope she submits it to us within the week," said Sandoval, senior vice chair of the House appropriations committee.

"I don't know why there was no budget message (on Monday) but I heard there were last-minute priorities," he added.

Sandoval said he was informed the President would propose P800 billion for government operations next year.

"I think that's only two percent more than this year's budget. This will be one of the smallest budget increases so far," Sandoval said.

He said he expects increases in the budget for peace and order, the President's current focus.

He said increases could also be expected for agriculture, education, transportation and the anti-flood budget of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Gonzales said budget hearings at the House should begin by the second week of August so that the tedious process at the committee level could wind up by the first week of October.

Malaysia pushing for Asean-wide security pact

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia is pressing for an anti-terrorism pact that it signed with Indonesia and the Philippines to be expanded to cover all of Southeast Asia, where alleged allies of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network have made serious inroads.

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said he would open the door for other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to accede to the pact at talks next week with his counterparts in Brunei.

He said Thailand, Laos and Singapore had already expressed interest in joining the pact.

But analysts say difficulty in agreeing on a definition of terrorism by the 10 Asean-member states, and a lack of financial resources, may hamper region-wide cooperation.

In a first step toward flushing terrorist groups out of the region, senior Asean members Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines—which share common sea borders frequently used by pirates and criminals to evade pursuing troops—sealed an anti-terror security pact in May.

The pact includes plans to trace and freeze terror funds and exchange information to curb cross-border crimes such as piracy, drug trafficking, illegal entry and illegal trafficking of women and children.

"We think that post-Sept. 11, it is useful to exchange information to combat the greater threat of international terrorism, things that may affect transnational crime, terrorists' funds that may be kept in each other's countries, or information that we obtained from third parties," Syed Hamid said.

The arrest of dozens of suspected terrorists allegedly linked to al-Qaida in Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines has revealed the existence of a regional Islamic militant group called the Jemaah Islamiyah, which also operates in Indonesia.

This has sparked fears that Southeast Asia—where Muslims make up more than half the 500 million population—could become a haven for al-Qaida operatives fleeing Afghanistan.

On Tuesday, civil defense and military officials from 23 countries met in the Philippines to map out strategies to boost multilateral disaster response to calamities and terrorism.

The four-day forum dubbed Sagip (Rescue) and organized by the Philippines and the United States, was first launched in 1999 under the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), as part of confidence-building measures among international defense, civil and military authorities.

The forum aims to "establish linkages" toward establishing a common framework in which to quickly respond to calamities and terrorism to limit deaths and damage, said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. *AFP*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Real party in interest; indispensable party; necessary party—A real party in interest is one who stands to be benefited or injured by the judgment of the suit. In this case, petitioner would not be affected by any judgment in the case. If petitioner is not a real party in interest, she cannot be an indispensable party. An indispensable party is one without whom there can be no final determination of an action. Petitioner's participation in the case is not indispensable. Certainly, the trial court can issue a judgment ordering Alberto J. Lopez to make an accounting of his conjugal partnership with respondent, and give support to respondent and their children and dissolve Alberto J. Lopez' conjugal partnership with respondent, and forfeit Alberto J. Lopez' share in property co-owned by him and petitioner. Such judgment would be perfectly valid and enforceable against Alberto J. Lopez. Nor can petitioner be a necessary party in the special proceedings case before the trial court. A necessary party is one who is not indispensable but who ought to be joined as party if complete relief is to be accorded those already parties, or for a complete determination or settlement of the claim subject of the action. In the context of her petitioner in the lower court, respondent would be accorded complete relief if Alberto J. Lopez were ordered to account for his alleged conjugal partnership property with respondent, give support to respondent and her children, turn over his share in the co-ownership with petitioner and dissolve his conjugal partnership or absolute community property with respondent. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Relucio v. Lopez, G.R. No. 138497, January 18, 2002]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Ebdane recalls 'fake' defenders' promotions

POLICE Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. recalled yesterday the orders promoting at least 300 police officers who had "defended" Malacañang on Labor Day last year.

Junior officers had raised an uproar over the promotions, claiming that some of those promoted had been nowhere near Malacañang on May 1, 2001 and that a few were serving in the multinational peacekeeping force in East Timor at the time.

The attack on the Presidential Palace was spurred by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada seeking to overthrow his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Finding merit in the complaints, Ebdane said he recalled the orders, which had granted "meritorious promotions" to the police officers from the rank of police officer 1 through senior superintendent (full colonel).

"I have designated Deputy Chief for Administration Gen. Clyde Fernandez to review the list and remove the names of those who are not supposed to be on it," he said.

Ebdane said the officers who were in East Timor during the Palace siege were surprised by their promotion, which they rejected. "They'll return their promotion papers," he said.

The promotion orders had been signed by Director Virtus Gil, director for personnel and records management (DPRM), and noted by Deputy Director General Rex Piad, chief of the Directorial Staff.

They also bore the words "by command of the OIC, Police Deputy Director General Ebdane." Ebdane said, however, that he only learned of the promotions after he took over as PNP chief on July 4.

The orders also said they were in compliance with the memorandum approved by then PNP chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza.

TJ Burgonio

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 24, 2002
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Jer 1:1, 4-10**
Gospel: **Mt 13:1-9**

Jesus left the house and sat down by the lakeside. As many people gathered around him, he got in a boat. There he sat while the whole crowd stood on the shore, and he spoke to them in parables about many things.

Jesus said, "The sower went out to sow and, as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground where there was little soil, and the seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was not deep. But as soon the sun rose the plants were scorched and withered because they had no roots. Again other seeds fell among thistles; and the thistles grew and choked the plants. Still other seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop; some produced a hundredfold, others sixty and others thirty. If you have ears, then hear!"

Commentary

"If you have ears, then hear!" An abundant harvest depends not only on good seed but also on the receptivity of good soil. The parable of the sower tells of our responsibility in implementing God's plan. It is not enough to have received gifts from God if we do not welcome them wholeheartedly and make them bear fruit. There is a demand for our personal cooperation. Does God need us? Not really, but he willed it so. Creation is still in progress; liberation and salvation of all human persons is still unfolding. There is a task for all of us to responsibly contribute to bring about the designs of God revealed in our personal and communitarian history. Jesus challenges those who seem not to listen to the Word, warning that they will not enjoy its fruits.

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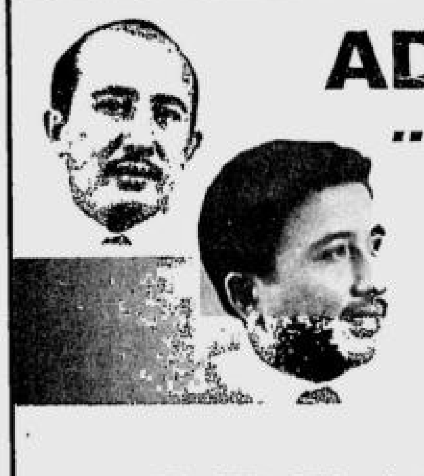

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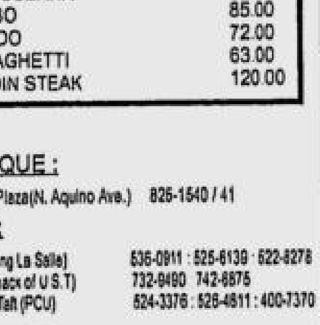

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'Juan,' 'Kaka' linger

TROPICAL depression "Juan" is expected to remain stationary over the South China Sea for the next three days, even as another stronger weather disturbance, tropical storm "Kaka," continues to move toward extreme Northern Luzon.

The weather bureau sees occasional monsoon rains soaking western Luzon and the Visayas today, but lowered storm warning signals in the Ilocos region and Zambales as of yesterday afternoon.

Juan's center was spotted 350 kilometers west of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, as of 2 p.m. yesterday, packing maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour.

Kaka (international name Fung Wong) was estimated at 750 km east northeast of Basco, Batanes, with strongest sustained winds of 95 kph near the center with gustiness of up to 120 kph.

Arnold Altarap, weather forecaster of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration in Camaligan, Camarines Sur, said the arrival of Juan breached the normal number of typhoons in the country in a month. He said Kaka brings to six the number of typhoons this month.

Altarap denied that the unusually high number of typhoons indicated the El Niño weather phenomenon would not occur. ***Volt Contreras with Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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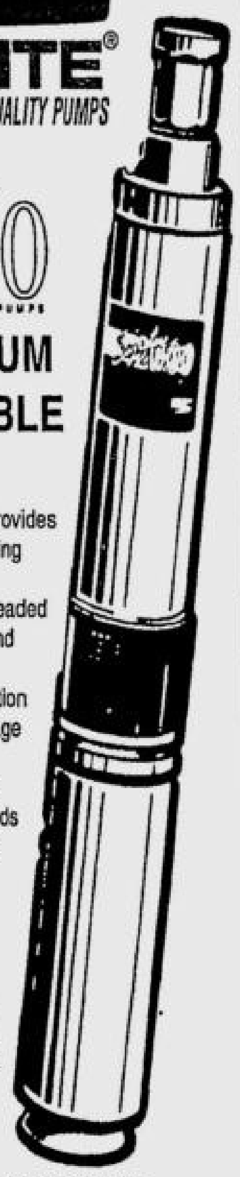

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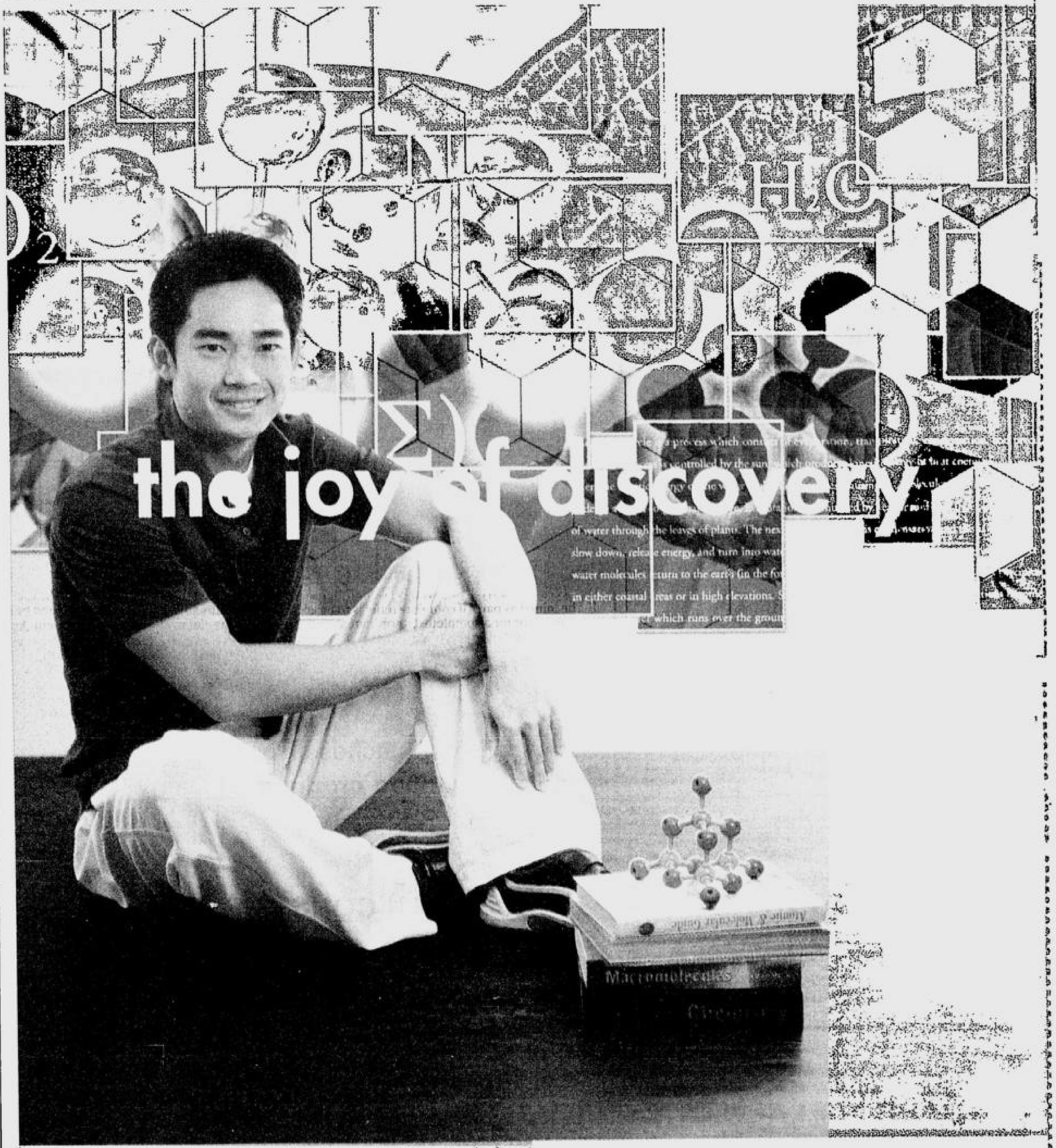

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US $34-M aid cut perils UN family planning

From page A1

draw $34 million of its funding this year to the agency over claims that it finances groups which promote abortion and forced sterilization in China.

UNFPA executive director Thoraya Obaid said the loss of financial support would be "devastating for women and families in the poorest countries." She insisted her agency did not support or promote abortion anywhere in the world.

She said the US funding would have prevented 2 million unwanted pregnancies, nearly 800,000 induced abortions, 4,700 maternal deaths, nearly 60,000 cases of serious maternal illness and more than 77,000 infant and child deaths.

The UNFPA operates in 142 countries, including the Philippines where it has been funding reproductive health and family planning programs.

The US decision satisfied a conservative anti-abortion lobby ahead of congressional elections in November, but infuriated Democrats and disappointed UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

"I think UNFPA does very essential work, and we have made it clear that it does not go around encouraging abortions. It gives good advice to women on reproductive health and does good work around the world, including in China," Annan said.

Money to go to USAID

In a decision widely viewed as a victory for social conservatives in America, the Bush administration said on Monday that the $34 million that had been earmarked for the agency—which makes up 12 percent of the UNFPA budget—would go to international child survival and health programs run by the US Agency for International Development.

US officials said Secretary of State Colin Powell based the decision upon a legal analysis of a report conducted by a three-person independent team sent to China in May to probe China's population policies, and the UNFPA role in them.

The team recommended that "not more than $34 million" should go to the UNFPA. It found "no evidence" the agency had knowingly supported or taken part in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization in China.

It said China had "coercive elements in law and in practice" but the policy had been relaxed where UNFPA worked. It said UNFPA grants of computers, medical vehicles and other resources, enabled China to more effectively carry out a policy that included coercive abortion.

Women, children will die

UNFPA's Obaid questioned why the Bush administration was cutting off aid to all countries. In the past, the agency had promised not to spend the money in China.

"Women and children will die because of this decision," Obaid said.

"We are very sad, and we are shocked because we have never been involved in coercion in China or anywhere else in the world," Stirling Scruggs, UNFPA's director of information and external affairs, said.

"The opposite is true, we have fought for human rights and particularly women's rights around the world since 1969."

"UNFPA is pro-life," Obaid told reporters, insisting that the agency was working with the Chinese government "to move their policies and practices away from coercion, toward a voluntary approach that respects human rights and dignity and that is in line with international agreements."

"The services we promote reduce the incidence of abortion," she said.

Democrats and supporters of family planning said they were "stunned and appalled" by the decision.

"Apparently, the White House has concluded that the support of right-wing ideologues is more important than the health and safety of women around the world," said Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe.

House Republican Whip Tom DeLay praised it, saying: "American tax dollars shouldn't fund a program that carries out the systematic destruction of innocent human life by performing forced abortions and sterilizing women against their will." *Reports from AP, AFP, Reuters*

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The Bureau of Food & Drugs and Abbott Laboratories are issuing this joint advisory to clarify the situation regarding Gain and Gainplus.

GAINPLUS, NOT GAIN

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Signed:

Dr. William D. Torres, PhD
Director IV
Department of Health
Bureau of Food & Drugs Administration

Edwin D. Feist
General Manager
ABBOTT LABORATORIES (PHILIPPINES)

Why men . . .

From page A1

The study, appearing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, also used MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) to get an idea of the workings of the subjects' brains as they were exposed to the pictures.

It found that the women's neural responses to emotional scenes were much more active than those of the men.

Turhan Canli, an assistant professor of psychology at State University of New York Stony Brook, said the study showed that a woman's brain is better organized to perceive and remember emotions.

"The wiring of emotional experience and the coding of that experience into memory is much more tightly integrated in women than in men," said Canli, the lead author of the study.

"A larger percentage of the emotional stimuli used in the experiment were remembered by women than by men."

Other authors of the study are John E. Desmond, Zuo Zhao and John D. E. Gabrieli, all of Stanford University.

The findings are consistent with earlier research that found differences in the workings of the minds of women and men, said Diane F. Halpern, director of the Berger Institute for Work, Family, and Children and a professor of psychology at Claremont McKenna College in California.

Halpern said the study "makes a strong link between cognitive behavior and a brain structure that gets activated" when exposed to emotional stimuli.

"It advances our understanding of the link between cognition and the underlying brain structures," she said. "But it doesn't mean that those are immutable . . . that they can't change with experience."

Better memory

Halpern said the study also supported earlier findings that women, in general, have a better autobiographical memory for anything, not just emotional events.

She said the study supported the folkloric idea that a wife has a truer memory for marital spats than does her husband.

"One reason for that is that it has more meaning for women and they process it a little more," said Halpern.

"But you can't say that we've found the brain basis for this, because our brains are constantly changing."

In the study, Canli and his colleagues individually tested the emotional memory of 12 women and 12 men using a set of pictures.

Some of the pictures were ordinary, and others were designed to evoke strong emotions.

Each of the subjects viewed the pictures and graded them on a three-point scale ranging from "not emotionally intense" to "extremely emotionally intense."

As the subjects viewed the pictures, images were being taken of their brains using magnetic resonance imaging. MRI measures neural blood flow and can identify portions of the brain that are active.

Different emotions

Canli said women and men had distinctively different emotional responses to the same photos. For instance, the men would see a gun and call it neutral, but for women it would be "highly, highly negative" and evoke strong emotions.

Neutral pictures showed such things as a fireplug, a book case or an ordinary landscape.

The pictures most often rated emotionally intense showed dead bodies, gravestones and crying people. A picture of a dirty toilet prompted a strong emotional response, especially from the women subjects, Canli said.

All the test subjects returned to the lab three weeks later and were surprised to learn that they would now be asked to remember the pictures they had seen.

Canli said the subjects were not told earlier that they would be asked to recall pictures from the earlier session.

In a memory test tailored for each person, they were asked to pick out pictures that they earlier rated as "extremely emotionally intense."

The pictures were mixed among 48 new pictures. Each image was displayed for less than three seconds.

"For pictures that were highly emotional, men recalled around 60 percent and women were at about 75 percent," said Canli.

Depression

Canli said the study may help move science closer to finding a biological basis to explain why clinical depression is much more common in women than in men.

Canli said a risk factor for depression was rumination, or dwelling on a memory and reviewing it time after time.

The study illuminates a possible biological basis for rumination, he said. AP

Environment dep't defends hiring of 195 consultants

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources defended yesterday its hiring of 195 consultants this year, an issue that was raised by its own chief accountant and exposed by its employees union.

Environment Undersecretary Gregorio Cabantac denied insinuations of irregularity in the agency's hiring of lawyers, engineers and other experts outside of the department's "organic" personnel. Cabantac said the hirings were needed to meet the targets set by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The DENR Employees Union had cited a July 2 memo by the department's chief accountant, Elvira Caparas, on the "alarming number of (contract) personnel" that had already "exceeded" the number approved by the Department of Budget and Management.

Addressed to Secretary Heherson Alvarez and other top environment officials, the memo noted the agency had 13 consultants more than authorized by the DBM under the 2002 budget.

It ended with a "request" to "reduce (their) numbers to the least" while using "to the fullest" DENR's in-house staff and experts. The employees union claimed Cabantac himself had hired 21 lawyers with salaries ranging from P20,000 to P26,000 per month.

In a statement, Cabantac denied DENREU's claim that the consultants' salaries alone ate up some P56 million of the agency's annual budget.

In the same statement, Assistant Secretary Rogelio Paglomutan said most of the consultants—109 of the 195—were hired under foreign-funded projects. ***Volt Contreras***

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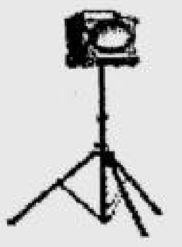

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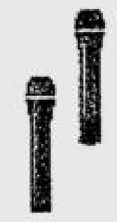

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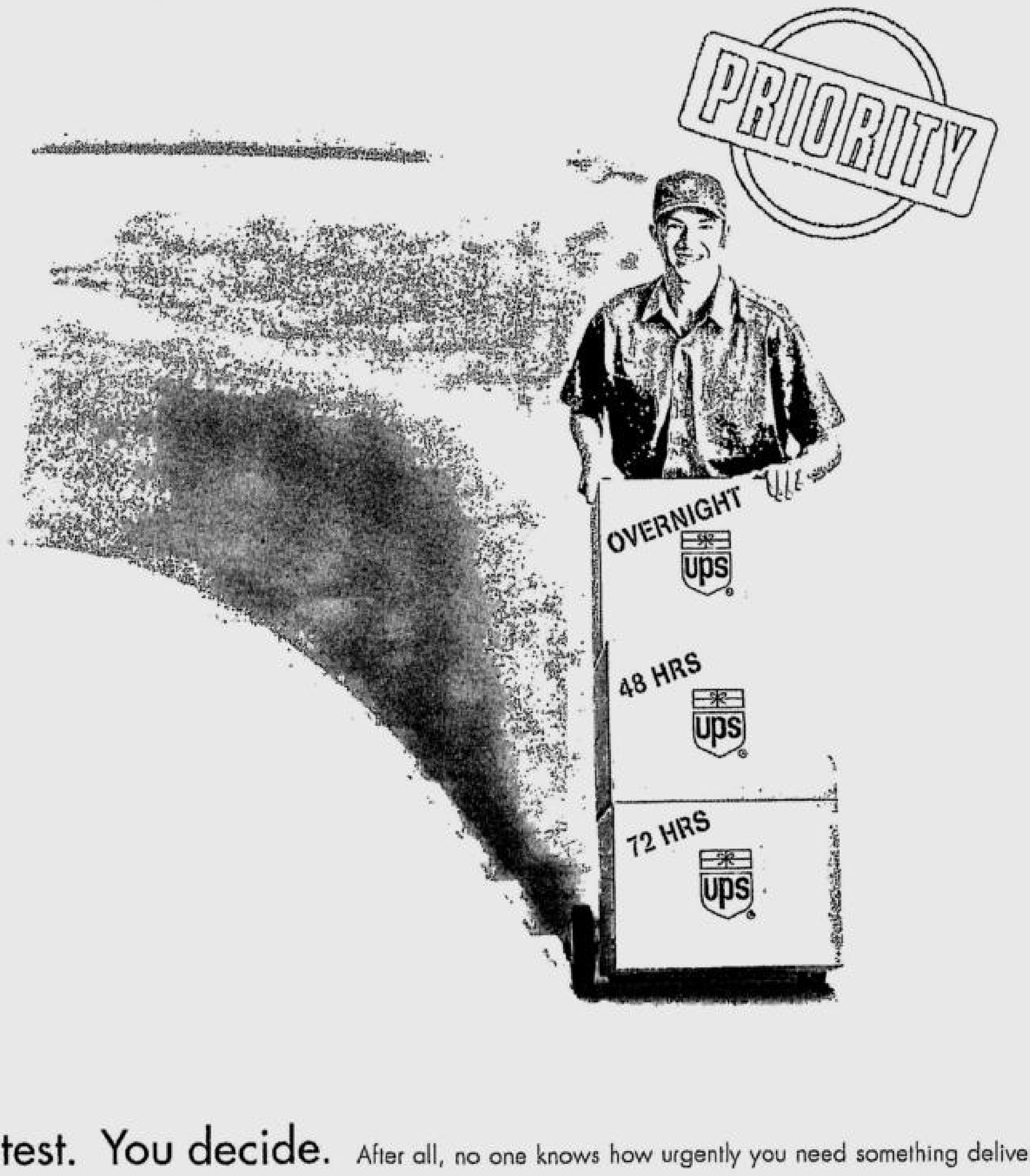

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Small steps

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo says she wants to be remembered as the leader who added the "fine stone" of a "strong republic" to the "edifice of our nation." In her second State of the Nation Address last Monday, Ms Macapagal defined a strong republic as one that "takes care of the people and takes care of their future." This republic, she said, will be built on the foundation of "citizens with rewarding jobs paying decent wages."

And how will her administration go about building this foundation of a strong republic? Ms Macapagal said her administration would try to generate investments and jobs by addressing three urgent concerns: graft and corruption, peace and order and high power rates. Corruption, she said, "weakens the flow of investments" while terrorism and criminality pose "a direct threat to national security." She did not elaborate on how great a disincentive to business high power rates are (and she didn't need to). Then she announced the specific measures her administration would take to combat corruption and fight terrorists and criminal syndicates and bring down the cost of electricity.

If Ms Macapagal's long-term vision of a strong republic looked very inviting, the "giant steps" she outlined to get there were something of a disappointment. In fact, the "working agenda" she spelled out in her speech contained little more than reflex reactions to major problems identified by businessmen and other independent observers. For instance, graft and corruption apparently was not on her radar screen until US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone pointed it out as a major obstacle to doing business in this country. Before Ricciardone opened his mouth, administration officials would smugly point out to anyone who brought up the issue that a former president was being tried on graft charges, implying that it was mainly responsible for putting him in the dock. On the other hand, all the seven top police officials earlier sacked for their failure to stop *jueteng* were cleared of any involvement in the illegal numbers game.

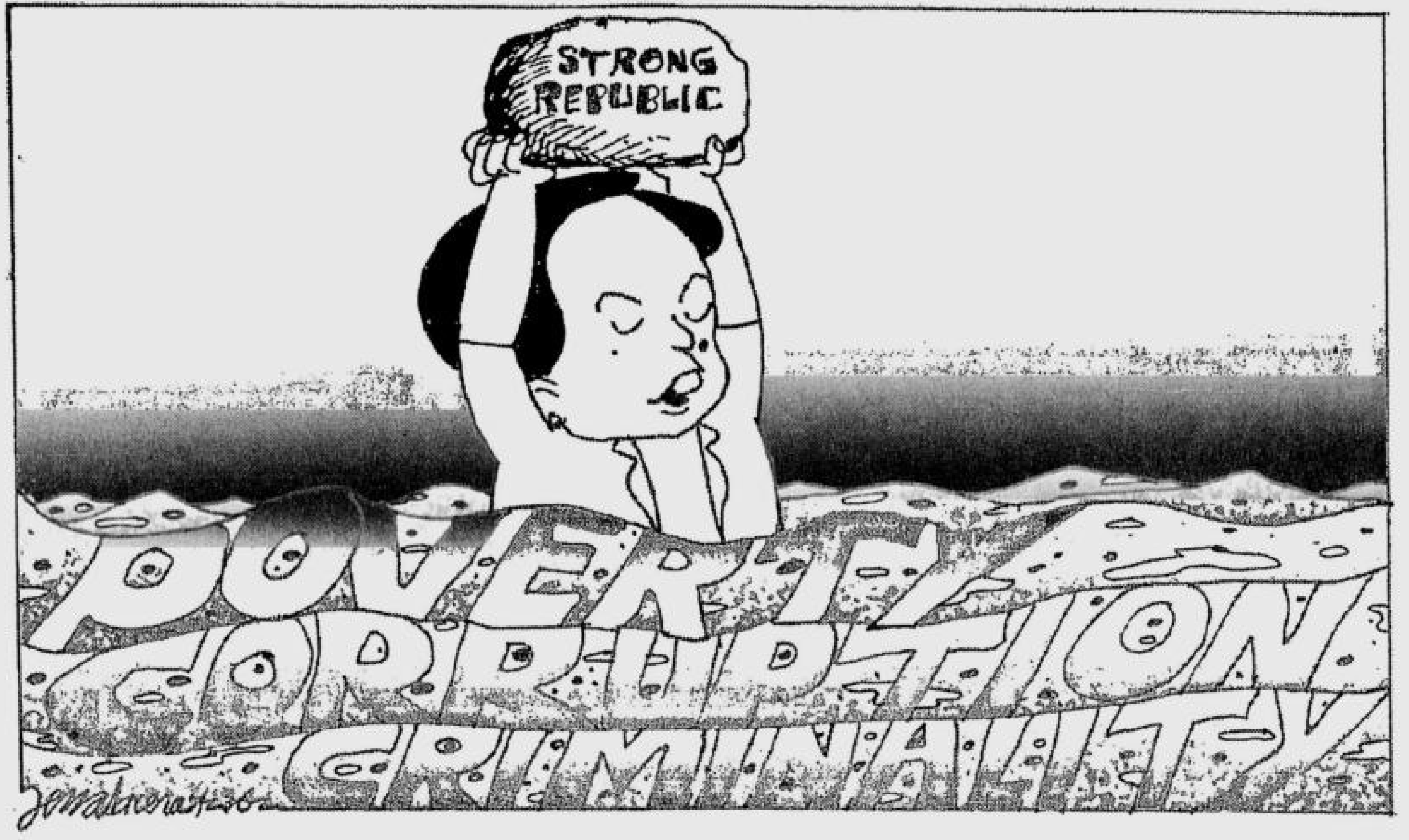
The relief of the seven police officials only served to underscore the skewed priorities of those who were running the Philippine National Police. It was only after its critics pointed out that there were far more serious problems than illegal gambling that the administration declared an all-out campaign against kidnapping and illegal drugs.

Same thing with the high cost of electricity. Until there was a loud public outcry against the onerous purchased power adjustment that practically doubled the cost of electricity—and the President's approval sank to its lowest level ever as a result—the administration did not make any move to provide relief to the consumers.

All these three major problems have been identified as key concerns of the government whose solution deserves the highest priority. But only now. It is as if the administration cannot see any problems unless others point them out. No wonder it cannot offer any fresh insights into what ails the nation, much less undertake new initiatives that would turn it into what Ms Macapagal described as "a country (that is) as good as it can get."

With its limited vision, the administration appears incapable of taking the "giant steps" necessary to rescue the Filipino people from poverty, corruption and criminality. Of course, the President was right in ordering that those found guilty of graft be haled to court and that the smugglers and tax evaders be prosecuted. She also deserves support in her war against terrorists and criminal syndicates. But it would have demonstrated better her determination to stamp out corruption and crime if, for instance, she had called for a purge of the police force to weed out officials who are in cahoots with drug traffickers, kidnappers and other crime syndicates and ordered them jailed. She could have shown a deeper concern for the rural poor by fine-tuning and speeding up the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. And she could have moved to strengthen our democratic institutions by calling for sweeping electoral reforms.

Bold initiatives are needed to build the strong republic she envisions for the future. But faced with old problems, the President dug into an old medicine bag and came up with solutions of doubtful efficacy.



Why so much fuss over Sona? It's just words

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I DON'T understand why the whole nation gives so much importance to the State of the Nation Address of the President. It is all hot air, nothing but words, words, words. It is said that even the Devil can cite the Scriptures. Well, presidents can cite statistics to lie to the people—so many housing units given to the homeless, so many hectares of land given to landless farmers, so many jobs given to the jobless, etc. Nobody checks if these figures are correct. They're just numbers on pieces of paper. The President can just as well be pulling our collective leg.

Every year, we go through the rigmarole of listening to the President's Sona. But it is the least credible evidence of the real state of the nation. Isn't the most accurate gauge of the nation's state the standard of living of the people? Are the lives of the people better now than a year ago? Are they eating more and better food now than they were eating last year? A hundred Sonas saying they are better off now than before won't make things better if in reality they are not. So why all the fuss about the Sona? All the sycophants praise it, but it doesn't change things for the better. It's hot air, that's all.

For example, the President said the price of *galunggong*, the poor man's fish, has gone down by P20 a kilo, from P80 to P60. Nobody checked that for accuracy. Just for the heck of it, I went to the wet market yesterday for the price of a kilo of *galunggong*.

P80 per kilo.

"The President said it is now only P60 a kilo," I said.

"*Di sa kanya kayo bumili*," the vendors shot back.

"She said in her Sona she was able to buy at P60," I repeated.

"Ask her where she bought it," they replied. "*Bibili rin kami*."

I'm not implying that the President lied, but it seems you have to be the President of the nation to be able to buy *galunggong* at P60 a kilo. And since like more than 70 million other Filipinos I don't have the ghost of a chance of becoming president, I have to content myself with high-priced *galunggong*. That Sona didn't do anything to help me except raise false hopes.

Come to think of it, the price of *galunggong* was cheaper during the administration of President Marcos, only P20 a kilo, if I am not mistaken. Even President Aquino, who made the price of *galunggong* a political campaign issue, was not able to lower it further. So who is the better president now if the measure would be determined by the cost of *galunggong*?

So the Macapagal administration awarded so many housing units to squatters. Are there fewer squatters now than a year ago? As any fool can see, there are more—not less—squatters now than before. Squatter colonies are not only expanding and proliferating, the squatters themselves have become more greedy and grasping, more insolent and reckless. Did the glowing Sona make the squatting problem any better? Did it return to the taxpayer-owners the lots they worked for years to pay only to be stolen from them by squatters? Did the Macapagal administration lift a finger to get their properties back in exchange for the taxes they paid and are still paying? Is life better or worse now for these disposessed taxpayers than before Ms Macapagal became President?

So many thousands of hectares of land—reformed lands have been distributed to agrarian reform beneficiaries, but why has the agricultural harvests decreased? Why has the per capita yield decreased? Why are we importing—and smuggling—more rice now than before?

So many new jobs have been given to the jobless, said the Sona. But how many of these jobs were given by the government to young Filipino women who will end up as prostitutes abroad (see As I See It, 7/22/02)?

So the government has killed or captured 170 suspected kidnappers, according to the Sona. But why are more people being kidnapped? Why are Filipinos still living in fear?

In short, the glowing figures in Sonas mean nothing if they don't improve the lives of the people. So all this to-do about the Sona is an exercise in futility.

* * *

"Desert, vt.: 1. To forsake (someone or something that one ought not to leave); abandon; 2. To leave (one's post, military service, etc.) without permission; 3. To fail (someone) when most needed—vi. To leave one's post, military duty, etc. without permission and with no intent to return, or, in war, in order to avoid hazardous duty."—Webster's New World Dictionary.

A deserter is one who deserts. In war, deserters are shot by firing squad. President Macapagal-Arroyo said several times in her Sona that "we are at war..."

Sen. Robert Jaworski's jumping from the opposition to the administration ranks is desertion, pure and simple. He is a deserter. What is the punishment for deserters?

* * *

By insistent public demand, here is today's joke:

Two men are conversing.

First man: I want to learn how to speak Hebrew.

Second man: Why?

First man: Because I think that's the language in Heaven.

Second man: What if you go to Hell?

First man: Oh, that's all right. I already speak English.

Castles on sand

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE was one thing President Macapagal-Arroyo said in her Sona speech last Monday that startled me and made me realize the true extent of her performance after a year. After starting out modestly by reminding her audience of her father's very modest ambition, which was just to contribute a stone to the edifice that was the nation, which she said was her own modest aim too, she went on to talk not just about her contributions to the nation but to the world.

"As a result of our decisive action after Sept. 11, the Philippines is now a recognized player in world affairs. The President of the Philippines was the first head of government to emphasize the interconnection between the war against terrorism and the war against poverty. Nations large and small now embrace this interconnection."

I do not know whether Ms Macapagal herself demanded the inclusion of this idea or her speechwriter decided to do some, well, the journalistic idiom for it is used only in backrooms. But it is deluded in every sense. At the very least, I do not know where Ms Macapagal got this notion that she has become a player in world affairs. She confuses George Bush's back-patting with world adulation. The Fil-Ams, who have been complaining about the harsh treatment of Filipinos and other ethnic minorities in the United States since 9/11, should help disabuse her of the thought. And I do not know that she has any fans club in the Arab countries, the same countries that harbor the bulk of our OFWs.

More than this, the proposition is silly. If the President meant the interconnection between poverty and crime, then the interconnection would have been real. But it wouldn't have been original. That wheel had been discovered long before Ms Macapagal chose to reinvent it. But an interconnection between poverty and terrorism? The President must have forgotten that the suicide bombers that razed the World Trade towers were living comfortably in the United States and had even gotten pilots' licenses to boot, assuring them of a future blessed by Allah if they had wanted it. Indeed, the President may have forgotten that Osama bin Laden, her and Bush's favorite villain, is a multibillionaire.

You want a connection with terrorism, you'll have to look at heights of political and religious conviction, or fanaticism, and depths of grief, or anguish, that drive people to such frenzy. Not poverty. But nations, large and small, have known that all along.

That statement pretty much adumbrated the whole spirit of the speech. If the President was wrong about cause and effect in international affairs, she was wrong about cause and effect in national affairs. Her proposition about the national condition was this: This country is poor because it lacks foreign investments, and it lacks foreign investments because it reels from crime, graft and corruption and high power rates. Ergo, you solve crime, graft and corruption and high power rates, you solve the problem of foreign investments, and you solve poverty.

In fact the opposite is true. We do not have foreign investments because we have crime, corruption and high power rates, and we have crime, corruption and power rates because we are poor. Poverty is not the effect, it is the cause. You solve poverty, you solve crime, corruption and high power rates, and you solve foreign investments.

It's not hard to see how crime, graft and corruption and high power rates are the branches and not the root of the tree, or to use Ms Macapagal's own metaphor, the edifice and not the foundations of the building. Crime is clearly a product of poverty—that interconnection is real. And it will get worse, notwithstanding the *pa-pogi* Pacer is doing, precisely because of it. As I said before, Rodrigo "Ugok" Duterte is better employed as a consultant of population control, where his proposed strategy of "salvaging" suspected criminals should prove effective.

Graft and corruption is a function of poverty too. I do not mean by this that the poor like to steal. The rich are more prone to it, which was how they became rich to begin with. I mean by this that it happens because our culture, a "culture of poverty" if you will, allows it. No, more than allows it, sanctions it. We expect public officials to steal, preferably for us. No opprobrium attaches to pillage—which is the only deterrent to it in the end. Not to Marcos', not to Erap's, not to the presidents that came before and after.

The PPA merely extends the proposition. It was the product of graft and corruption, or an opportunity to make a dishonest buck from an honest-to-goodness power crisis. Abuses like that happen because the people are powerless to do anything about it. That is the more real—and permanent—power crisis in this country.

It's not just a matter of adding stones to the edifice, it is a matter of knowing where to put them. No building has yet been made strong by redecorating the penthouse. Buildings have been made strong by shoring up the foundations, to make them more earthquake-proof. That means doing something immediately and directly about the grinding poverty in this country. You need go no farther to see how far Ms Macapagal's efforts there have gone than what has happened to Erwin, Jomer and Jayson, aged 9, 10 and 11 now, the *bangkang papel* boys. I don't know if they actually attended the protest rally in Payatas, but the fact that they contemplated doing so is a fierce refutation of the President's claims about having given the poor a break, or hope, in life. It is the loudest indictment of all. You cannot make a good show out of your token anti-poverty cases, you won't make a good show out of the rest.

Take it from the Bible. There are no strong houses that are built on sand

First test

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's bold pledge to build a "strong republic" encounters its first test in a few days—not a year from now, when she will deliver her third State of the Nation Address.

She projected to the diplomatic corps, as well as to the nation, on Monday a dramatic and substantive shift of her major goals, saying, "Now I will lead our country towards the strong republic."

Yesterday, the President drummed the "strong republic" message to the foreign service, but what the diplomatic corps are anxious to know is who will be the next foreign secretary who will steer the foreign policy of the "strong republic." The next foreign secretary will determine whether she is taking the right direction in projecting her capacity to deliver a vigorous and dynamic foreign policy. It will determine whether she will entrust the implementation of the republic's foreign policy on the shoulders of a deadwood like Sen. Blas Ople.

Today, the President meets Ople and the meeting is expected to decide once and for all whether she will offer the foreign affairs portfolio to Ople and whether he will accept it. Media handlers promoting the Ople project have swamped the press with leaks that his appointment to the Department of Foreign Affairs is a "done deal," and Ople's allies have launched a media blitz extolling and overstating his qualifications for the job.

The meeting will take place despite the fact that the Ople option of breaking the Senate's 12-12 deadlock has become worthless. The defection of Sen. Robert Jaworski to the government camp stole the value of Ople's vote. Ople would have been the deciding vote but he hedged by imposing two self-serving conditions—that he votes for the "new majority" that staged a coup on June 3, after which he joins the Cabinet, with his triumphal entry paved by his vote and the change in the Senate balance of power. The script did not work after Jaworski made a break, so the Ople option is a deep embarrassment to the President's "strong republic." She is left with live coal in her hands.

The new nonsense fabricated by the pushers of the Ople project is that the administration needs a broader base to ensure leadership stability in the Senate against an opposition counter-coup...But there are more promising targets for a switch than Ople. So, it's hard to see what purpose Ople will serve to the advantage of the administration unless it seeks to commit political suicide by putting a dead weight in its foreign policy implementation.

After the "strong republic" speech, the diplomatic corps and the foreign governments were inspired to expect a new dynamism in the Macapagal administration in terms of domestic and foreign policy initiatives. Part of the expectation is a new face in the DFA who does not represent a creature of political horse trading to regain control of the Senate and who is a dynamic embodiment of energy and predictability in foreign policy execution.

Diplomats do not explicitly express their preferences, but the undercurrent in the diplomatic corps is that the "strong republic" theme can be taken seriously if, in the realm of foreign policy, the foreign office is in the hands of a person who can infuse dynamism in it and whom they can admire and respect. In other words, in the next few days, the President will disclose whether the person who will represent this country in the council of nations is an accurate and elegant emblem of a "strong republic." The question that she has to answer is: Can she build a "strong republic" on Ople? Or are there no other stronger pillar upon which to broaden her alliance in the Senate or to build a dynamic and vigorous foreign policy?

Those pushing for Ople from inside the administration say that the DFA was offered to him as early as last December. Granting this to be true, it only shows perfidy—meaning that as early as December the President had already been undermining Vice President Teofisto Guingona, then foreign secretary, and consorting with the opposition. Last December, the policy conflict between the President and Guingona had not yet come to a head in the Balikatan exercises, so, it can't truly be said that the reason for Guingona's ouster was solely "honest policy differences."

It is indeed a symptom of a weak state that the President herself was undermining her own political alliances to make way for a more flimsy alliance with the opposition, without gaining clear advantages from it.

The President correctly said in her Sona that "internationally, the Philippines is back on the map." She stated this in the context of the country "being the best performing economy in Asia and the best in Southeast Asia."

Foreign policy needs a powerful economic accent. Today it is still on the map from another perspective—its foreign policy direction is being forged on the anvil of domestic political convenience, with the possibility that it will be executed from an arthritic and shaky platform.

In her second Sona, the President underlined two essential features marking a strong republic. The first is "independence from class and sectoral interests, so that it stands for the interests of the people rather than a powerful minority." The second "is the capacity, represented through strong institutions and strong bureaucracy, to execute good policy and deliver essential services."

A foreign policy built on domestic political deals flies in the face of the second element about "strong institutions" able to "execute good policy." The President has put her "strong republic" pitch too early on the line.

'Messy' democracy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS expected, the usual suspects issued their "counter-Sonas" yesterday, clogging the airwaves and taking up precious column inches with their rebuttals to the President's report, bemoaning her lack of vision, complaining that she had failed to move or inspire them, and even accusing her of lying outright or fudging figures, at least.

Those who thought President Macapagal-Arroyo dwelt too much on details and on reporting what her administration accomplished of the targets set in last year's State of the Nation Address said she was too detailed and that her rhetoric failed to soar. Those who wanted to nitpick her new targets felt she dwelt on broad generalizations and didn't really say anything new.

One radio commentator complained that no one in the media had examined in detail the administration's record in meeting the Sona targets. This, even when the commentator before her had talked of checking the Sona targets and accomplishments in the government website and had even put on Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo to explain the discrepancies between the figures in the website and those cited in Monday's Sona.

The Sona, then, is like a blank screen on which we can project our political leanings and inclinations, our ideological beliefs and posturings, even our personal like or dislike of the President. We read into it as much or as little as we want to, employing rose-colored glasses or a magnifying glass to check the fine print.

* * *

THE WHOLE Monday-morning quarterbacking on what the President should or should not have said in the Sona took place against the backdrop of the latest political wrinkle, the "last two minutes" jump ball executed by Sen. Sonny Jaworski from the opposition to the administration.

With the numbers now clearly in favor of the "People Power" bloc, one would think that the squabbling in the Senate would have settled down. Instead, we are treated to further quibbling over committee assignments and the distribution of plum posts, and the whining of the "losing" side after finding its majority absurdly short-lived.

What are we to make of this seemingly endless politicking? And what exactly does it have to do with the survival of this nation and our prospects for lifting ourselves up from the floor of chronic underdevelopment and underperformance?

Circulating among various e-groups, and signed by young professionals in business, media, the academe, the arts and even those based abroad, is a statement meant as a "memo" for our political leaders requesting them, in the main, to "resolve your differences for the nation's sake (and) stop posturing today ahead of 2004."

"Our economic recovery is fragile. The peace and order situation is unsettling as crime and terrorism threatens. Calamities wipe out crops and savings. Millions remain poor, and even those who have some means find life harder," is how their assessment of the national situation goes. And yet, given this dire scenario, "Our people do not demand miracles. They appreciate everyone who contributes to modest improvements in our situation despite (their) limitations."

* * *

WHICH is why this is really about the worst time for our officials to allow themselves to be distracted by political jockeying. As the statement says: "What is now important is for our country to keep moving ahead as we have no time to lose. Our needs grow every day and our means grow much more slowly...The President and the leaders of Congress should stop dwelling on reasons for conflict and instead focus on getting our government to deliver on a constructive agenda for the nation."

These emerging leaders in the private sector believe the times call for "civility in public discourse," begging public figures "to stop calling each other derogatory names that simply add enduring bitterness to temporary disagreements." Given the gravity of our problems, and the growing distance between the Philippines and its neighbors in the region (even Vietnam is set to leave us behind), "this is not the time for partisan political posturing more appropriate for the campaign period in 2004."

Instead, Congress should "concentrate on critical bills essential to our economic growth," while the President should "exercise her considerable powers and authority to implement and enforce our laws to move the country forward."

* * *

AND yet, even as the signatories of the statement recognize the reality of political accommodation in the search for control of the legislature to speed up the passage of necessary legislation, they also believe there's need to restate the moral basis of this administration's ascension to power.

"We ask both administration and opposition to recall Edsa II not as an act of political expedience, but as an act of moral outrage. All those in power today need to consider Edsa II as a militant reassertion of the principle that public office is a public trust," they remind all those in office today.

Democracy is by nature "messy." While it frees up the energies and talents of individuals so they could contribute to the building of the nation, it can also usher in much confusion and noise as competing interests clash and cancel out each other. The only way democracy can survive its own mess is that it be organized around a set of principles and ideals that provide both structure and inspiration. It would also help if the people, especially public officials, would be willing to set aside their own selfish interests or desire for attention to work together for the common good. Is that too much to ask?

Love and eroticism

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MY long research into the private lives of Filipino heroes in the late 19th century has earned me a rather negative reputation as purveyor of gossip and trivia. While most academic historians are busy piecing together the grand view of things—trade patterns, revolts and revolutions, the emergence of the Filipino nation—I have been concentrating on the footnotes. In the process I have been criticized for turning the appetizer into the main course, leading to loss of appetite or even indigestion. During the storms a hardy group of people met in the UP Asian Center to discuss love in the colonial world. The topics promised to be steamy, but as often happens in academic gatherings, things became too cerebral and overcame physical enjoyment.

Love and eroticism were themes given in the letter that invited me to participate in the symposium, and while these two themes are sometimes confused and used interchangeably, they are distinct when treated in historical writing. Eroticism is often considered too base for history and historians, while love is more lofty, especially when the object of affection is bigger than a person or a thing like the country or an idea like nationalism. Love and eroticism are facets of Jose Rizal that continue to fascinate Filipinos, but the way in which Rizal is taught in school or commemorated in monuments and official holidays has developed blinders in the way the hero is remembered.

While there is much material on the private lives of other 19th century heroes, Rizal is the most documented both in primary and secondary sources. However, this is one case where the abundance of material actually leads to confusion. I often have to follow a paper trail down to the primary source. As national hero of the Philippines, Rizal's life has become public—he has little or no private life left. Some textbooks give us the names of about a dozen women, mostly foreigners he met in his travels, none of whom ended up married to him. Generally, Filipinos know about Leonor Rivera, a Filipina, and Josephine Bracken, a foreigner.

I have often had to comment on the persistent rumor that Rizal is the father of Adolf Hitler! One would not normally entertain such a ridiculous question but by following the paper trail I ended up with something else. Contrary to popular belief, Hitler was Austrian, not German. He was born in Braunau, Upper Austria in 1889. Tracing Rizal's whereabouts in 1888-1889 one will see that he was not anywhere near Austria, although one could say that Hitler's mother could have traveled to where Rizal was. From the summer of 1888 to the spring of 1889, Rizal was in London, hard at work in the British Library, copying out, by hand and annotating the 1609 edition of Antonio de Morga's "Sucesos de las islas Filipinas." From the spring of 1889 till the end of the year he was in Paris for the Universal Exposition. Pushing it even further, Rizal was in Austria in 1887. During his stay in Vienna on May 20-25, 1887 he met a Viennese woman. Rizal's friend and contemporary Maximo Viola gives us the story. I first read this in the English translation from a book published by the Philippine Historical Association:

"In one of our excursions in Vienna, Rizal met a Viennese lady of extraordinary beauty and irresistible attraction. This lady seemed to have entered our hero's life for the sole purpose of momentarily tempting our country's apostle of liberty with the cup of mundane pleasure, for up to then, Rizal had led a life worthy of his namesake, Saint Joseph."

Viola lost the original diary he had written at the time. He reconstructed his travels from memory and published these in 1913, about 26 years after the events he relates. In 1913 Rizal was already a national hero, moving Viola to qualify or put this sexual footnote in context by adding: "This, however, was a solitary case. During our six months together, I can't recall of any other incident wherein he succumbed to temptation."

My inquiry on Rizal and Hitler ended there but the research took a detour when I checked the above text with the Spanish original. The variations were far from slight: The PHA had edited, the better word would be censored or sanitized, Viola. The PHA translation mentions the Viennese lady of "extraordinary beauty and irresistible attraction" but conveniently leaves out the important words "of the family of the Camelias or hetairas." There is no equivocation, no complicated allusions here. Viola states that the Viennese woman was a prostitute. Read in this context we can understand why Viola had to justify or explain Rizal's actions. Perhaps, Viola wanted to tell the truth, or wanted to paint a more human side to his friend who was starting to become fossilized in statues of stone and bronze. Wouldn't it have been easier for Viola to just leave out this detail from his narrative?

We presume Viola and Rizal shared the room and other expenses as they traveled round Europe for six months. Was it only in Vienna that Rizal skipped one or two nights and slept elsewhere? This does not prove much. How sure are we that Rizal indeed had a one night stand with a Viennese prostitute? Maybe they played Scrabble? Why do we tend to forget that Rizal was human? Now that's another question.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Neither useless nor hopeless

HIGH BLOOD

Clarita Abraham

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

I AM old. I can feel it in the creaking and aching of my bones and muscles; in the stiffening and swelling of my joints. My fingers and toes are twisted toward different directions and are disfigured. My brown skin is as crumpled as an overtoasted *pan de sal*. My thick black hair has thinned and has turned dirty white; my eyes are dimmed by cataract and I am a bit—just a little bit—hard of hearing.

So what am I now? What do I do now?

Ulyanin? Useless? A liability to family and society?

An uncaring Bicolano would say *"Ano labot ko* (What do I care)."

I once heard about former President Estrada branding two elderly people but otherwise learned and highly erudite government officials *"ulyanin."* Radio commentators guffaw when they greet those over 60 with *"amoy lupa ka na yata,"* though they sometimes try to soften the impact with *"kalabaw lang naman daw ang tumatanda."* Very disparaging, right?

Pope John Paul II gently addresses the senior citizens with inspiring thoughts like "I experience great happiness when I am with the aged. You give me a share in your peace and the accumulated wisdom of your lives." He further tenderly calls them "elderlies who had given their years and talents in the service of God and his people." And James F. Finley, C.S.P., writes about the treasured age "that we are important by the fact that God used us in the lives of our children and family as a Christian presence in the lives of others."

We certainly can't deny that "age has taken toll on our bodies; that aches and pains have slowed us down and that there is a tendency for memory to fade as we age." Nevertheless, this is not true to everybody. The Holy Father is over 80 and he is physically weak but still mentally active. So is Queen Elizabeth, who is 76, and Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat who's probably also a septuagenarian. For myself, I too am hampered by osteoarthritis and unlike Estrada who wants to go to the United States for an operation, I can't afford one even in our country. Yet my mind is still active and continues to be useful to my family, community and to God, in my own small way.

For almost 30 years I worked as a lowly clerk in our municipal treasurer's office and retired as an assistant municipal treasurer. Upon my retirement I offered my services as a catechist in our local schools. My arthritis started to bother me two years after my retirement. Yet, I managed to serve as a barangay kagawad for two terms now. Being a kagawad keeps me mentally active. I also make myself busy scribbling down the thoughts that still cram into my mind. In short, I write.

But I won't venture to call myself a writer. That's too lofty and impressive for my kind of writing. I do write and even if a lot of my writings find their way to the waste basket before I can come up with something acceptable to an editor, quite a number of my "struggles" have seen print.

A late bloomer, I started writing only in my 50s whenever I had nothing more to do after office hours and while keeping house. Several of my ideas landed on the pages of Free Press and Graphic, although in most cases, they were under pseudonyms.

I can't really explain why I use pen names. Only my family knows they were mine but I was just as proud and elated as when they were under my real name. Could it be shyness, diffidence, or just false pride? All I know is that I dreaded rejection. And I did have many rejection slips.

Being just a high school graduate with a few undergraduate units earned during summers, I honestly can't write without a dictionary beside me. And I'm not a proficient typist so my manuscripts have had so many type-overs and "whiteouts." I'm so thankful that some editors just correct or delete my errors.

Am I bragging now? Boasting is not one of my negative attributes but I did feel my ears expand as my friends and family members congratulated me when they read my piece on "non-partisan barangay elections" which found space beside the editorial of the INQUIRER last July 1, 1997 under the column "High Blood." You would think I won the year's Nobel prize award the way I basked under the accolades. This was duplicated when two articles I wrote for Kerygma, a popular Catholic magazine saw print.

It's a wonderful and warm feeling but, as I said, I have no intentions of boasting. There's nothing much to boast about compared to those produced by real writers.

I'm just trying to qualify my claim that, even as our bodies are deteriorating, God still allows us to make some small contributions to life. It gives me so much pleasure being able to put my thoughts on paper, rambling though they may be.

Clarita Abraham, 73, is a retired local government worker and continues to write occasionally.

THEY SAID

Main consideration

"At the end of the day, foremost in our members' concern was the survival of Pasar (Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp.) which will ensure everybody's continued employment."

—Labor union president Elmer Signe on the collective bargaining agreement reached that had no wage increase clause

Vain bandits

"*Mawalan na sila ng makain, huwag lang* Eskinol, cotton *o* ponds."

—Former Abu Sayyaf member Bashier Hamja of some bandits always finding time for their beauty regimen

Porous prisons

"We have porous prisons that house more inmates than they could accommodate and whose doors are playthings for those wishing to escape."

—Sen. Blas Ople said in relation to the escape of a kidnap-for-ransom gang leader

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Review of IPP contracts not yet good enough

THE FREEDOM from Debt Coalition welcomes the acknowledgement of the Interagency Review Committee that there are "onerous and grossly disadvantageous" provisions in the contracts between the National Power Corp. and the independent power producers (IPPs). We welcome the fact that the contracts with Casecnan and MCI, which we have repeatedly argued to be highly onerous, have been included in the top five onerous and grossly disadvantageous contracts named by the IAC. Indeed, the IAC's findings confirm what we have been claiming all along.

However, we think that it's not yet time to go to the negotiating table. Although the review may be good enough to prosecute the officials of the Ramos administration, it is not yet good enough as an instrument for negotiation. Negotiations will be over before they take off, if this is all the government has.

We are aware that there are three aspects of the review that should have been done by the IAC: legal, financial and technical and operational review. The reports only cite legal and financial aspects of the review. There was absolutely no reference to the technical and operational aspect. Although IAC head secretary Isidro Camacho himself mentioned on several occasions that the IAC would also conduct a technical and operational review of the contracts, we seriously doubt whether such review was undertaken.

We suspect that if a technical and operational review had been done, even the six IPPs reported by the IAC to be "clean contracts" might have also been found onerous. In fact, the financial and legal reviews themselves are weak because they are not informed by an assessment of the operations of the IPPs. We have learned that in many of the contracts that were reviewed, it was merely assumed that the power plants were actually capable of operating at their contracted level of capacity.

The IAC should not only scrutinize the specific provisions of the contracts. More importantly, it should check whether or not the plants are working. If the plants are working, the IAC should then determine whether or not these plants can deliver their required minimum capacity. The point is to determine the instances of contract breach, both to strengthen chances of successful negotiation and to allow the government to make strong and credible threats of dragging the parties to court or to impose substantial penalties.

Without an operational review of the plants, the government will not be able to determine if the IPPs have breached the contracts. Hence, if the government is serious about building a strong case for the cancellation and renegotiation of the contracts, it should take the operational review seriously.

—LIDY B. NACPIL, secretary general, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 34 Matiaga St., Central District, Quezon City

Digging Africa out of the poverty hole

I THOUGHT we were the poorest people in the world, until I read the United Nations report that poverty continues to rise in some countries in Africa. The report cited Congo as faring the worst, with 90.5 percent of its people living below the poverty line. Yet, it's incredible that in the United States, some 2.5 million rural children are also impoverished. The United Nations attributes the condition in Africa to the lack of investment potentials and globalization, which, in effect, has tightened the "international poverty trap."

However, the good news is that the Group of Eight (G8)—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States—has embarked on what it called "a genuine partnership for the renewal of Africa," hopefully to revive the continent's economy.

Considering the extent of poverty in Africa, the G8's contributions may not be adequate. Perhaps the group could tap the assistance of wealthy individuals. For instance, there is Mark Shuttleworth, a South African Internet millionaire, who spent $20 million as the second space tourist last May. Last year, Dennis Tito, an American businessman, "pioneered" space tourism to the tune of $30 million! Both took the Russian Soyuz capsule in their space journey.

If these two space tourists could share some of their riches, they may say with Mohammed that, "a man's true wealth is the good he does in this world."

—ADELFA L. ETRUISTE,
E. Glinoga Street,
Barangay Castillo,
Pitogo, Quezon

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A lack of proficiency in English

THIS has reference to Raul Palabrica's June 10, 2002 column, titled "Disappointing letter."

I was amused while reading parts of the student's letter. Later I was so dismayed at how she mangled the English language. I should not have been surprised for I have noticed how much the quality of English education has gone down after the Department of Education implemented the use of the local dialect in the first four years in the elementary grades.

I work in the clinical laboratory of one of the private hospitals in our city. We have medical technology interns who undergo training in our laboratory. I just wonder how they managed to pass their English courses when they could not even write a decent report on their internship period, much less a letter of application!

The advent of the cell phone and the consequent abbreviation of words have not helped students and others develop correct English usage. I read one student's report where some of the words were in "text-ese"!

By far, the most startling paper I ever read was an application letter written by a public school teacher with a master's degree in English. She still has to master her English and the basic principles in writing a letter of application. I wonder how she earned her master's degree in English.

How do we expect to progress in this age of globalization when we can't speak and write good English?

—VERNA M. ALIH, vernalih@yahoo.com

What does 'civil society' mean?

AS the sole founding member of the Amateur Lexicographers Anonymous (ALA), I have sworn myself in as a badge-carrying, whistle-blowing "lexi-cop" to regularly patrol the domestic verbal and non-verbal language superhighways. I react quickly whenever I spot a strange, indistinguishable locution.

For more than a year now, I have written to and pleaded with just about every local pundit and verbivore to please tell me what the term "civil society" means. No one has been kind enough to do that up to now.

This is my last desperate plea. Is it possible that they all use it but don't know what it really means?

Last year, a columnist of a major broadsheet claimed that the term was coined by Harvard eggheads. I doubt that. Harvard has never been known to produce lexicography giants. Only lawyers.

For example, there is an incumbent senator who is a Harvard law graduate. He used to write a column in another major daily. His former English teacher furnished me a copy of her letter to her former student decrying the fact that he obviously never learned the fundamentals of English grammar well enough. Believe me, if I had received a letter like that, I'd have shot myself in utter shame. (I can fax to anyone a copy if he is interested. Just call and give me a fax number.)

Anyway, the first time I stumbled upon the "ghost phrase," I thought it was a euphemism for "evil society." It turns out that, based on the present usage by media, it is meant to be specific to the Council for Philippine Affairs and its kind. Notwithstanding such exclusive attribution, its definition remains quite nebulous to me.

—RAMON ALFONSO A. FUENTES, P.O. Box 138
Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City

The public is not gullible

LET me state at the outset that I am no fan of President Macapagal-Arroyo as her leadership leaves much to be desired. However, in the raging controversy involving her and the Council for Philippine Affairs, her position should be defended.

I cannot agree more with the observation in one of your editorials that the issues being raised against President Macapagal are inadequate to lead to a popular uprising against her. They are "petty" as the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has correctly declared, and painting an Edsa scenario based on the issues raised is simply wishful thinking on the part of the self-proclaimed leaders of "civil society."

The public is not as gullible as they think.

—MANUEL S. TAYAG, San Lorenzo Village,
Makati City

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Menem, Iran deny $10-million bribe in Argentina bombing

BUENOS AIRES—Iran paid Argentina's then-President Carlos Menem a $10 million bribe to cover up the Iranian role in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, The New York Times reported on Monday, quoting a witness in the case.

But Menem, in an interview with CNN's Spanish language unit, said he categorically denied the allegation. And Iran's foreign ministry called the claim "baseless." Menem, 72, is running for a third term as president in 2003 after spending six months under house arrest last year on charges of arms trafficking.

Argentine and Israeli security services long have blamed Iran for the car-bomb attack on the Jewish center that killed 85 people. Victims' families also blame the Menem government for failing to find culprits beyond a car thief and policemen who provided the vehicle and only now are on trial.

Two years before the 1994 bombing, a strikingly similar attack hit the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29 people.

The New York Times cited a secret deposition by an Iranian man identified as a high-level defector from Iran's intelligence agency who gave his name as Abdolghassem Mesbahi.

It said his evidence has been ignored in Argentine investigations.

Menem denied the Times report and said he planned to sue both Mesbahi and the newspaper, according to the Web site of CNN en Espanol.

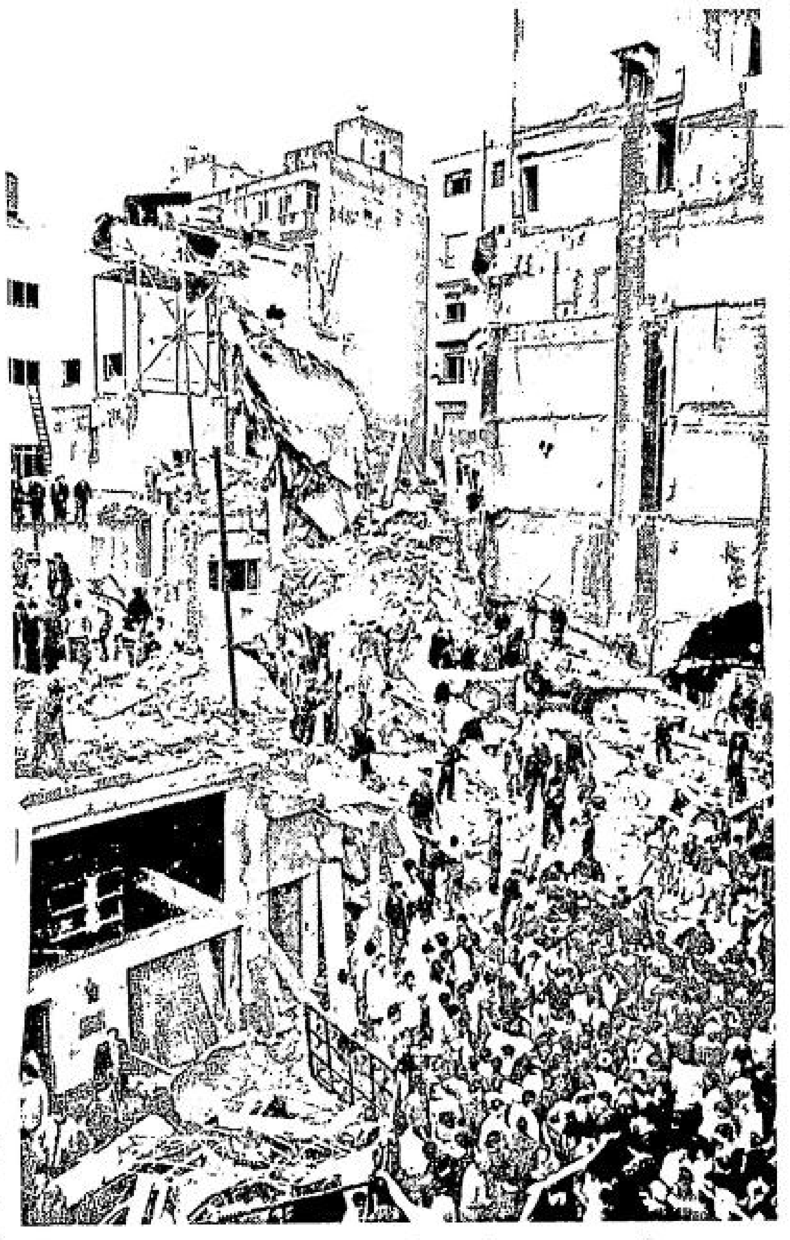
"Not only is the person who says this responsible, so are those who publish it," Menem told CNN en Espanol.

He called Mesbahi "a criminal who can't make such a charge without having proof." In Tehran, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said that Argentina routinely blames Iran "without giving any proof or any reasons. They accuse Iran under the influence of Zionist lobbies and I deny it. It is baseless." The New York Times said it got a 100-page transcript of a secret deposition from "Argentine officials frustrated that the case remains unsolved." The witness spoke of Menem's alleged ties to Iranian intelligence and of a $10 million payment to Menem from a Swiss account controlled by Iran's then-president, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, and by a son of late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The paper quotes Mesbahi as saying that Menem, in return, agreed to "make declarations that there was no evidence against Iran that it was responsible." In a decade in power from 1989-1999, Menem, a Roman Catholic of Syrian descent, tamed Argentina's coup-prone military and reformed the economy, but his entourage was plagued by accusations of corruption.

Menem's government at first blamed Iranian-backed Muslim extremists from Hezbollah. But the Iran lead got lost in a slow investigation plagued by disappearing witnesses, bungling, backtracks and unexplained delays.

Menem's brother Eduardo, a senator for the ruling Peronist Party that ruled Argentina under Menem, on Monday also dismissed the New York Times report. *Reuters*



THIS July 18, 1994 file photo shows Argentine rescue workers searching the remains of the AMIA headquarters in Buenos Aires. An Iranian defector, Abdolghassem Mesbahi, told Argentine investigators that Tehran paid then president Carlos Saul Menem $10 million to cover up its role in the deadly 1994 bombing of the Jewish center, the New York Times reported July 22. AFP

Peace deal hopes to end Congo war

PRETORIA—Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo struck a deal on Monday aimed at ending four years of war in the Congo, officials said.

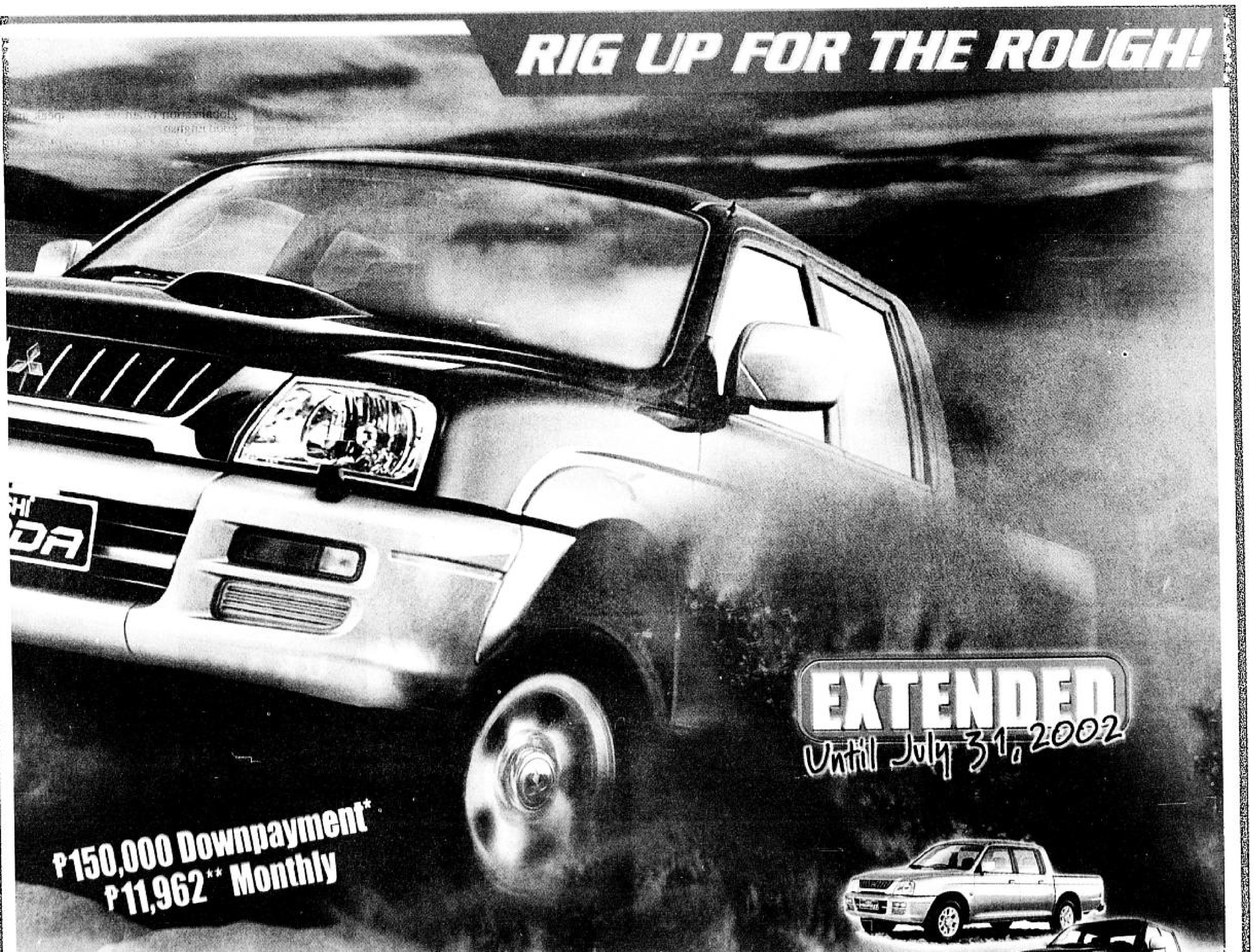
Delegates from the two countries have been meeting in the South African capital Pretoria since Thursday to try to resolve the conflict which has killed an estimated two million people since 1998, mostly from starvation and disease.

"We have reached an understanding and agreement at a technical stage," said South African Deputy President Jacob Zuma, who chaired the talks.

A Rwandan government official told Reuters in the Kenyan capital Nairobi the two sides had signed a memorandum of understanding restating their commitment to the Lusaka peace agreement of 1999.

The Democratic Republic of Congo agreed to track down ex-Rwandan army soldiers (Ex-FAR) and Hutu 'Interahamwe' militia within the territory it controls in collaboration with the UN Mission in the Congo, the official said.

Rwanda blames the ex-soldiers and extremist Hutu militias for the slaughter of some 800,000 minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994 and has accused Congo of harboring them. *Reuters*



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FBI arrests 4 in theft of moon rocks

TIFFANY Brooke Fowler, one of four people charged with stealing moon rocks. AP

TAMPA, Fla.—Federal agents arrested four people, including three Nasa interns, in the theft of "priceless" moon rocks brought back to Earth by US astronauts, the FBI said on Monday.

Three of those arrested worked at the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where the rocks were kept in a 270-kg safe that was discovered missing on July 15.

"These are national treasures," James Jarboe, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Tampa office, said at a news conference. He said he was confident all 113 grams of missing lunar samples had been recovered.

The samples, which came from all six US moon flights, were on display at the news conference in a fishing tackle box and a suitcase, where they had been kept since they were stolen.

Jarboe called the rocks "priceless" but Nasa estimated their value for scientific purposes at $1 million. The samples were offered for sale on the Internet at $2,000 to $8,000 per gram, investigators said.

Jarboe said Thad Roberts, 25, Tiffany Fowler, 22, and Gordon McWorter, 26, were arrested on Saturday in Orlando while Shae Saur, 19, was arrested in Houston. Roberts, Fowler and Saur were student interns at the Johnson Space Center.

Roberts, Fowler and McWorter were charged with conspiracy to commit theft of government property and transportation in interstate commerce of stolen property. Saur was charged with conspiracy and Jarboe said all four could face additional charges.

The arrests took place on the 33rd anniversary of the first walk on the moon in 1969 by astronaut Neil Armstrong.

The FBI began investigating after receiving an e-mail tip in May from a Belgian man who was a member of a mineralogy club in Antwerp. He told them moon rocks were being advertised for sale on the club's Web site.

An FBI undercover agent began an e-mail correspondence with the person who placed the ad and they agreed to meet in Orlando on July 20. Roberts, Fowler and McWorter were arrested after they met the agent. *Reuters*

FIRST IN US

New California law limits car emissions

LOS ANGELES—California Gov. Gray Davis signed a landmark law Monday making his state the first in the nation to regulate vehicle greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to curb global warming.

"This is the first law in America to substantively address the greatest environmental challenge of the 21st century," Davis said. "In time, every state—and hopefully every country—will act to protect future generations from the threat of global warming. For California, that time is now." But the auto industry, which strongly opposed the California law, vowed to dismantle it in federal court by invoking federal laws that reserve for Congress the power to set fuel economy standards.

"Federal law and common sense prohibit each state from developing its own fuel economy standards," Josephine Cooper, president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, said in a statement on Monday. "We expect to challenge successfully the implementation of this law in federal court." The California law takes advantage of a unique loophole which allows the Golden State to set its own air quality standards independent of the federal government.

The new law is the nation's first to require auto makers to limit heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions and other pollutants which form a thickening blanket in the atmosphere scientists say leads to rising global temperatures.

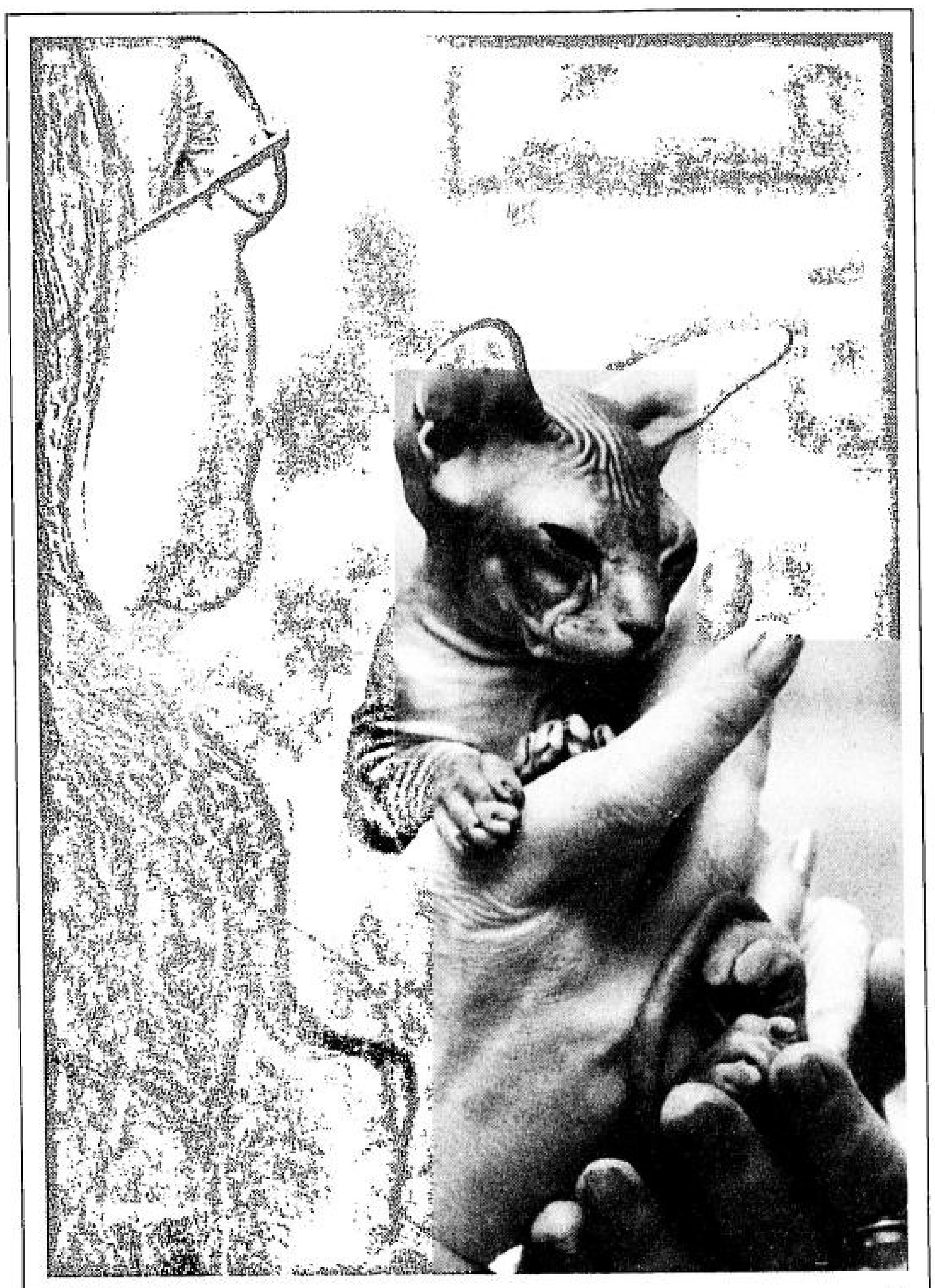
Davis said the auto industry was wrong to fight the measure, which he called a "historic step." "Clearly there will be resistance to this bill and opponents will say the sky is falling," Davis said on Monday.

"They said the sky was falling about unleaded gasoline. They said it about the catalytic converter. They even said it about seat belts and airbags. My friends, the sky is not falling. It is just getting a lot clearer." California, the No. 1 US auto market, set up the Air Resources Board before the the US Environmental Protection Agency was formed under the Clean Air Act of 1970. It has since pioneered a number of environmental requirements for the auto industry, including catalytic converters and lead-free gasoline.

Under the new law, the California Air Resources Board must adopt rules to achieve "the maximum feasible reduction" in greenhouse gas emissions by cars as well as light-duty trucks and sport utility vehicles, which together now account for 47 percent of passenger vehicles sold in California.

The regulations would not take effect until Jan. 1, 2006, but give auto makers until 2009 to come up with technological changes or modifications to comply with the new standards.

The California bill, which had been opposed by some Republican legislators, passed by a fairly narrow margin this month. Davis, the Democratic governor of the nation's most populous state, pledged to sign it. *Reuters*



RARE CAT AP

A four-month-old Sphinx cat called Dominika is taken into the outside world for the first time with her owner in Warsaw Old Town Monday, July 22. Sphinx is a very rare cat breed.

Karzai sidelines Afghan bodyguards amid security fears

KABUL, Afghanistan—President Hamid Karzai sidelined his Afghan bodyguards and called in US troops to replace them in a sign of rising security fears following the murder of an Afghan vice president, his aide said Monday.

Diplomats said the move followed "serious threats" against Karzai, some of them believed to have come from within his own Cabinet. The approximately 50 guards who were replaced were part of the 10,000-strong force of fighters loyal to Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim.

Afghanistan is in the process of training a new multiethnic national army, but those forces will be smaller than many of the private armies maintained by warlords. The warlords run their enclaves like private ministates often without regard for the central government even though some such as Fahim have positions in Karzai's administration.

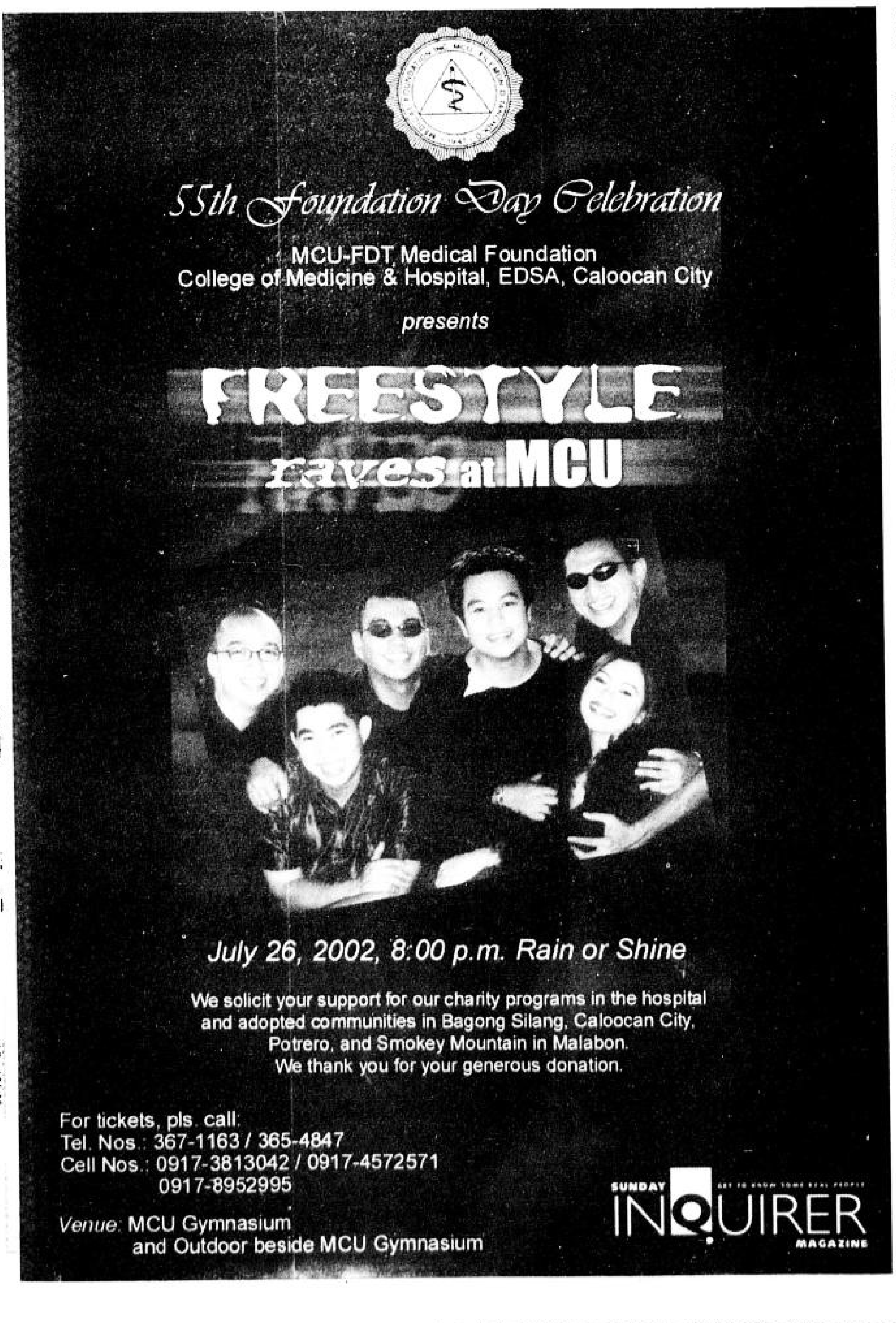
Concern over Karzai's safety soared after the killing this month of Vice President Abdul Qadir, said presidential spokesman Said Fazel Akbar.

"The investigation into the slaying of Qadir has so far not produced results, and something had to be done to increase the president's security," Akbar said.

Sources at the sprawling downtown palace said the first of about 50 US soldiers, including special forces, started deploying over the weekend to take care of Karzai's personal safety. A US Army spokesman in Kabul, the Afghan capital, declined to comment, and Karzai has made no public appearances since the changeover.

Qadir was gunned down July 6 outside his office by two men who fled in a white vehicle. Ten security guards on duty were arrested for failing to stop the killing or apprehend the two gunmen. No charges have been filed.

"The people who guarded Karzai in the palace were simple soldiers who don't know much about organizing security," Akbar said. "They will get the proper training (from the Americans), and in a few months, they will take over." *AP*



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SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

Outspoken Welsh appointed archbishop of Canterbury

LONDON—Welsh archbishop Rowan Williams, a renowned theologian and outspoken opponent of US policies in Afghanistan and Iraq, was chosen Tuesday to be the 104th archbishop of Canterbury, spiritual leader of the world's Anglicans.

Williams, who was chosen by Prime Minister Tony Blair, succeeds the Most Rev. George Carey, who is retiring on Oct. 31 after 11 years.

"If there is one thing I long for above all else, it is that the years to come may see Christianity in this country able again to capture the imagination of our culture, to draw the strongest energies of our thinking and feeling," Williams said at a news conference after his appointment was announced.

Williams, 52, has been praised in some church quarters as an orthodox Christian and a deep thinker. Desmond Tutu, the former archbishop of Cape Town, describes Williams as "the leading theologian in our communion." But some conservatives have been alarmed that he admitted ordaining a priest whom he suspected of living in a homosexual relationship.

Williams, who was in lower Manhattan on Sept. 11 as terrorist strikes brought down the World Trade Center, has criticized the US-led war on terrorism, and has condemned sanctions against Iraq and the American threats of military action against Saddam Hussein.

Writing recently about the war on terrorism, Williams said, "It is just possible to deplore civilian casualties and retain moral credibility when an action is clearly focused and its goals are on the way to evident achievement.

"It is not possible when the strategy appears confused and political leaders talk about a war that may last for years."

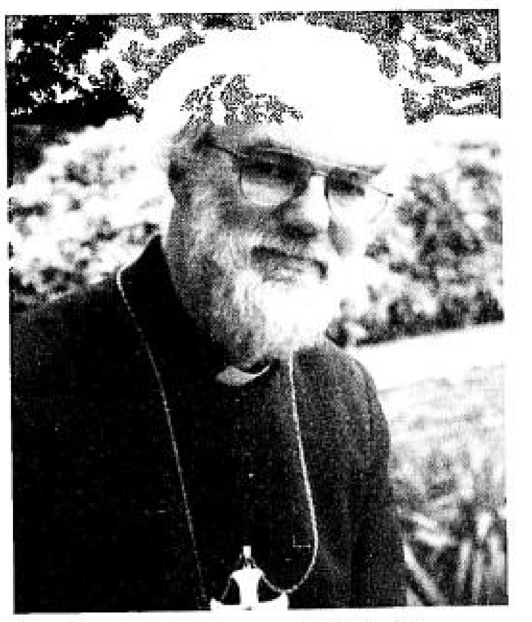
Williams was born June 14, 1950 in Swansea to a Welsh-speaking family.

He received a Ph.D degree from Oxford University in 1975; was a tutor at Westcott House, the Church of England theological college in Cambridge, from 1977 to 1980; was lecturer in divinity at Cambridge University from 1980 to 1986, and professor of divinity at Oxford University from 1986 to 1992. He was elected to the prestigious British Academy in 1990.

He was elected bishop of Monmouth in 1991, and in 1999 was elected archbishop of Wales, the senior clergyman of the Church in Wales, the Anglican church in the principality.

He married Jane Paul in 1981. They have a daughter, Rhiannon, 14, and a son, Pip, 6.

Williams takes the helm of a Church of England which is suffering a steep long-term decline in attendance and increasing pressure on its financial resources. He has advocated "disestablishment"—ending the church's privileged position as England's legally established church, whose supreme governor is the monarch.



LIBRARY file dated June 27, 2002 of the Archbishop of Wales Rowan Williams. The Swansea-born Welsh-speaker would be the first Archbishop of Canterbury to be chosen from outside the Church of England in modern times. AFP

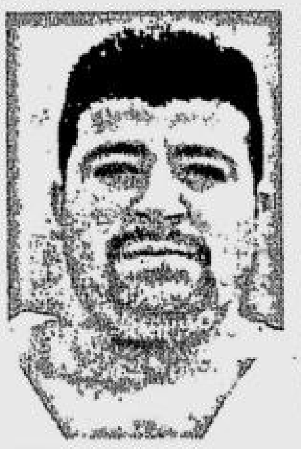
Within the Anglican Communion, which claims 70 million members worldwide, there are deep rifts between traditionalists and liberals, particularly on homosexuality and ordaining women.

"I think the church is in for an exciting ride with someone who is not defensive and who is open and who will engage with contemporary issues," Christina Rees, a member of the governing General Synod of the Church of England said Tuesday in an interview on British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Frank Naggs, a conservative evangelical member of the General Synod, told the BBC his group had "problems with his radical agenda, but in the Christian way we would like to have him clarify some of these issues, so we are arranging an early meeting hopefully to clarify some of these fundamental concerns."

On ordaining homosexual priests, he added: "As far as we are concerned it's against the Biblical revelation [illegible] and we are prepared to go to the wall on this one [illegible] *AP*

US factory worker charged in Samantha kidnapping-murder



AVILA

LOS ANGELES—A US factory worker was charged on Monday with kidnapping and murder of a five-year-old girl from her front garden in California, crimes which could see him put to death, prosecutors said.

Alejandro Avila, 27, who was arrested on Friday, appeared in court via a video link to be charged with murder, kidnapping and two counts of forcibly performing lewd acts on a child.

The girl, Samantha Runnion, was dragged kicking and screaming as she played with a friend in front of her home in Stanton, southeast of Los Angeles, a week ago.

Her naked body was found 120 km away on July 16.

An autopsy found that she had been sexually assaulted and asphyxiated before her corpse was dumped near a highway in forestland in Orange County, near here.

Prosecutors said they were still weighing whether to seek the death penalty against Avila if he is convicted on the charges, three of which carry "special circumstances" which could merit it.

"While the question of pursuing the death penalty in this case has yet to be decided, I do want to make one thing very clear," Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said after Avila's arraignment hearing.

"Anyone who commits an act like this in Orange County will either die in prison of natural causes or will be executed," he warned.

Avila has denied involvement in her disappearance or death.

The case has turned a national media spotlight on the kidnapping and murder of young girls in the United States where hundreds of children vanish each year.

Samantha's abduction was the third such crime to hit the west of the country in the past five months.

In late February, seven-year-old Danielle Van Dam was snatched from her bed in her parents' home in the southern Californian city of San Diego and was later murdered and her body dumped in the desert.

A neighbor of the Van Dam's is currently on trial for her abduction and murder.

On June 5, 14-year-old schoolgirl Elizabeth Smart was kidnapped at gunpoint from her bedroom in Salt Lake City, Utah by a masked intruder as her terrified sister looked on. She has not yet been found.

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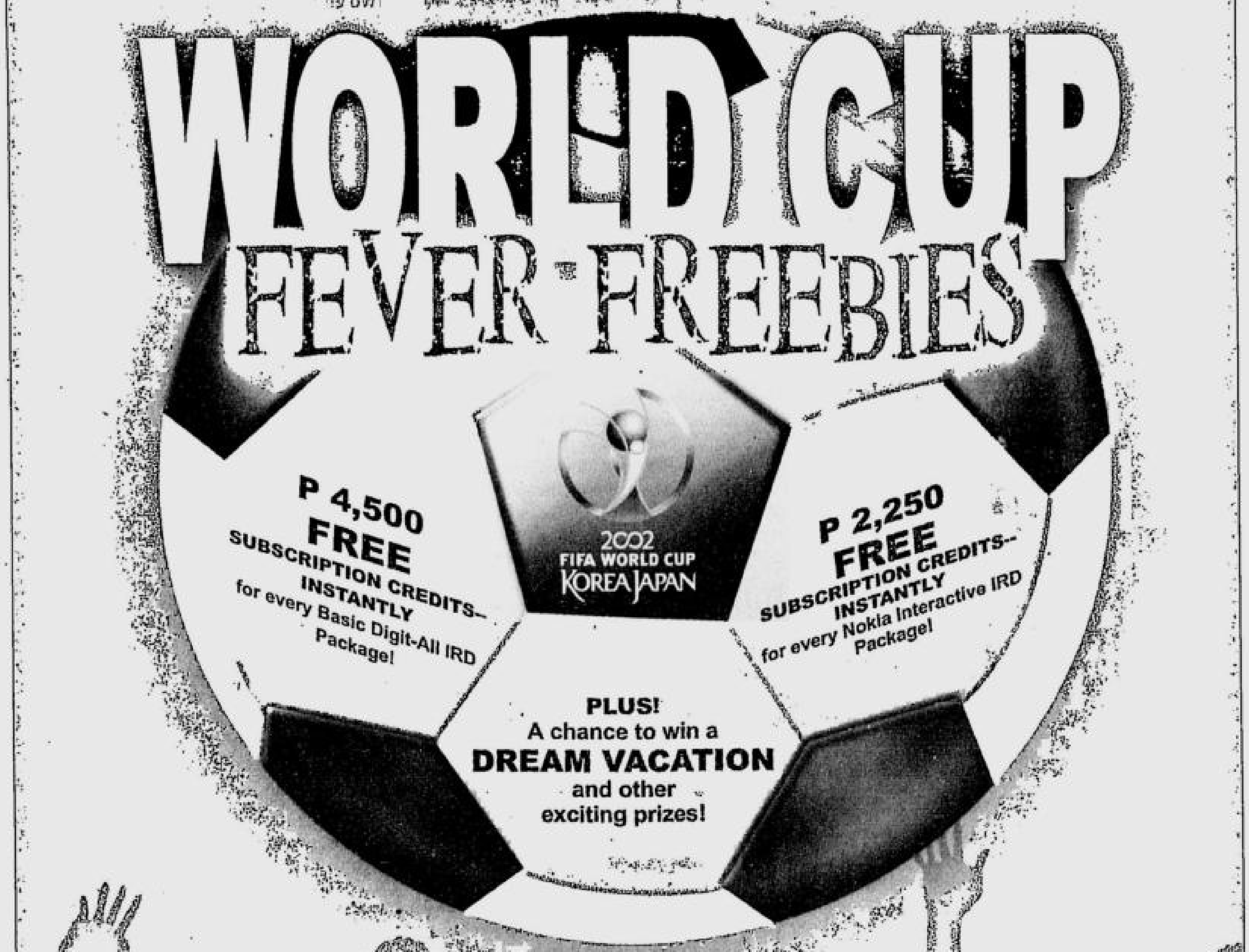

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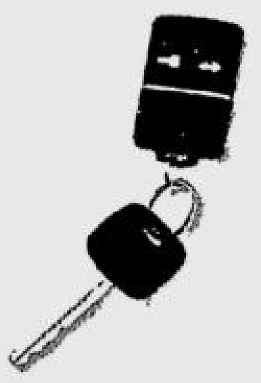

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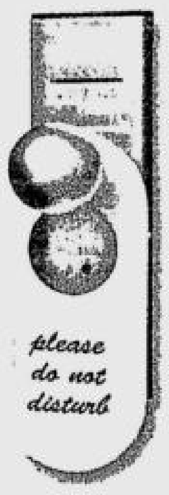

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De Venecia bid for cha-cha draws autonomy campaign

BAGUIO CITY—Advocates for Cordillera autonomy are making a "last ditch" crusade for an autonomous government, following Speaker Jose de Venecia's commitment to pursue Charter amendments.

Ernesto Garado, successor of slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg as chair of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, said a Coalition for Cordillera Unity and Autonomy (Cordura) has set a deadline of two years to draw up a third organic act for Cordillera autonomy.

The timetable will also include the campaign for its ratification, he said.

It is designed to draw the support and resources of groups allied with the Left, academe and local governments in pursuing a new autonomy law.

Should they fail in this last attempt, the advocates "will give up and allow their members to pursue their individual aspirations their own way," Garado said.

He said Congress was inclined to remove the provision granting the Cordillera and Muslim Mindanao the right to form their independent governments.

Only the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao had been set in place. The Cordillera rejected two organic acts in plebiscites held in 1990 and 1998, retaining only a transitory Cordillera Administrative Region to govern its affairs.

Former advocates described the defeat of the two organic laws as a rejection of the autonomy campaign.

But Garado said the manner the plebiscite questions were designed had stacked up the odds against a clear ratification of these laws.

"The questions asked if the individual approves of the law and autonomy. They should have been broken down because a rejection of the law does not mean a rejection of the political concept. We want this corrected finally," he said.

But both the Estrada and Macapagal administrations have given up on the campaign, preferring to interpret Balweg's 1987 peace agreement with former President Corazon Aquino according to their governments' resources, Garado said.

Former President Joseph Estrada had abolished the CAR governing agencies in 2000, and President Macapagal-Arroyo followed it up by integrating breakaway members of Balweg's CPLA into the military.

"What the Cordillera does not know is that breaking this transition government will mean reverting the provinces back to Regions 1 (Ilocos) and 2 (Cagayan Valley), where they came from," he said.

"This is why it is important for the autonomy process to continue unhampered by politics or Malacañang's interpretation of Executive Order 220."

EO 220 formed the transitory CAR following a ceasefire between the government and Balweg 15 years ago.

Garado acknowledged that autonomy had been a political headache for many administrations after the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

He said it would be a symbolic target for the CPLA to have the ratification of a third, "and hopefully final organic act," during the 2004 presidential elections.

He said the autonomy campaign, started in the 1980s by Leftist groups like the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, is the only solution to the region's poverty and peace and order problems. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience occasional monsoon rains. Moderate to strong Southwestern winds will prevail and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough.

SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 23°
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Hi 23°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	Hi 28°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Hi 29°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains	Hi 29°	Lo 25°
Roxas	Monsoon Rains	Hi 29°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 23
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/24/02

Mayor accuses DILG of defying SC order

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SANTIAGO CITY—Mayor Jose Miranda assailed on Monday the Department of Interior and Local Government officials for reportedly defying a Supreme Court order when they implemented the 90-day suspension order against him last week.

Renato Brion, DILG regional director, acknowledged receipt of the copy of SC's temporary restraining order released on July 19.

Before receiving the TRO, Brion issued a memorandum to Vice Mayor Clarito Manubay advising the latter "to continue discharging the duties and responsibilities of the office of the city mayor in (an) acting capacity."

According to Miranda, the DILG's "effective defiance" of the High Court's order has been undermining the rule of law.

Brion could not be immediately reached for comment.

The Supreme Court's July 19 two-page order said the TRO would be enforced "until further orders from this court."

The SC justices also ordered the respondents—the Sandiganbayan, the office of the Ombudsman, Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. and Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr.—and their representatives to "cease and desist from implementing the questioned regulations" which ordered Miranda's preventive suspension.

Lawyer Edna Herrera-Batacan, Miranda's counsel, said the Sandiganbayan's second division "acted without or in excess of its jurisdiction, or with grave abuse of discretion in suspending (Miranda) on a ground not authorized by law."

"The swearing in of Manubay as acting mayor by (DILG regional director) Brion is illegal because it has no force and effect as it has not become final and executory and that it (violates) the omnibus election code," Miranda said.

Brion swore in Manubay as acting mayor on Thursday afternoon. Miranda was not in his office when DILG officials served the order.

Interior Undersecretary Eduardo Soliman Jr. earlier asked Miranda to refrain from "further exercising the powers and performing the duties, functions and responsibilities of the office of the mayor, and allow the vice mayor to assume his duties and functions."

Miranda's suspension stemmed from the case of usurpation of authority filed by former Mayor Amelita Navarro against him on Nov. 26, 1997.

According to the Sandiganbayan second division's order, Miranda illegally assumed his post in 1997 after he had served only four of six months of his suspension for alleged involvement in jueteng operations in the city. He was suspended in July 1997 but he assumed his post in November that year.

Both Manubay and Brion, though, have stood firm with the Sandiganbayan's resolution.

PEOPLE'S LUNCH
Compostela Valley farmers take their lunch shortly before the People's state of the nation address started in Davao City on Monday.

BING GONZALES

NIA employees in Zamboanga, Naga seek payment for salaries

EMPLOYEES of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Western Mindanao and Naga province are protesting the non-payment of their salaries and benefits.

Joining Monday's nationwide protests, the Zamboanga employees demanded that they be paid their cost of living allowance (Cola) and amelioration allowance (AA) which have been denied them for more than a decade now.

Zardo Roa, president of the NIA Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEAP)-Zamboanga del Norte chapter, said the national government owes NIA employees in Zamboanga Peninsula P6,067,564 for Cola and AA which they have not received since 1989. In Zamboanga del Norte alone, the government owes its employees some P1.8 million of benefits.

In Naga City, the NIAEAP has assailed President Macapagal-Arroyo's apparent inaction on their salaries and benefits amid report of improved irrigation services.

The Naga City employees on Monday wore black and put up a black streamer at the NIA's regional office that spoke of their demand for security in salaries.

Ed Yu, spokesperson of the NIA union in Bicol, said the President's State of the Nation Address dwelt on her accomplishments that included increased areas of irrigated farms but the NIA employees are facing insecurity in their salaries and benefits.

Yu also assailed NIA's reorganization plan, which would result in the separation of some 1,400 employees from the 5,000 workforce nationwide because of the rejection of the two-year equivalent of a year of service as computation of the retirement benefits a separated employee would receive.

The NIA is a government-owned corporation that derives its income, administrative and operational funds from the irrigation service fees the farmers pay to the agency.

But for the last 10 years, the irrigation service fee collections have declined to as low as 47 percent last year at the national level.

Yu said the collection of irrigation service fees has improved in Bicol from 50 to 60 percent this year while the total national figure, from 47 to 70 percent.

He added that since 1989, NIA's employees have been deprived of the amelioration and cost of living allowances that have accumulated to P1.4 billion.

Yu said the government's offer to settle these obligations would take 18 years to pay, based on the installment scheme approved.

He said the offered installment payment scheme was to pay them from the 60 percent of the net income of NIA.

Yu said that last year alone, the net income of NIA has only reached P19 million, even as they expect that the irrigation service fees collection will improve.

He said the NIA union demands from the government the immediate payment of the benefits and to subsidize personnel services, which will cost P1 billion to P2 billion a year. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Lullie Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

C. de Oro dads mull charges vs church-run hospital

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The city council yesterday assailed the management of a hospital run by nuns here for its alleged un-Christian and inhuman treatment of patients, including those in emergency cases.

Councilor Reynaldo Advincula, chair of the Committee on Health, said the Maria Reyna Hospital (MRH) managed by the sisters of St. Paul de Charters (SPC) has, on several occasions, refused to admit patients because of their family's failure to make deposits.

Advincula said among these cases was that of Editho Magsalay, who died after the hospital refused to operate on him. He said the victim was left untouched in the hospital for two hours.

When Magsalay was moved to a government hospital, it was already too late for doctors to revive him.

"Our instinct would always tell us to bring our patients to the nearest hospitals especially when (it is a) matter of life and death. However, the wife had only P400 on her pocket. The victim, who heard the conversation of the attending doctors and the wife on the policy of deposit fee, even begged that he should be treated reasoning out that the money problem can be solved later," Advincula said during the city council's session here yesterday.

Advincula later told reporters that the city council was mulling the filing of charges against the hospital management.

"There is a law that states that hospitals must make sure that lives are saved before the matter on money is discussed," he pointed out.

But before finalizing the charges, Advincula said the city council would like to hear the hospital management's side on the issue and other complaints about the way it was treating patients.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Sister Cecilia Foz, the hospital administrator.

But James Dacuycuy, a reporter of Bombo Radyo who earlier sought an audience with Foz, said the nun would not comment on the issue.

Dacuycuy reported that before he was allowed to enter the hospital, the security guard on duty confiscated his radio.

He said when he finally saw Foz, the nun told him not to make any recording of their conversation.

"Then, I was told she could not give any comment on the matter and instead insulted me," Dacuycuy said.

As the issue on the hospital became the hottest thing here yesterday, about 30 complainants, including a Catholic priest, called Bombo Radyo and aired similar experiences from the MRH management.

Fr. Pepoy Cabatingan of the San Jose Seminary said clergymen have experienced difficulty in dealing with the hospital management in the past, prompting them not to patronize its services anymore.

"That hospital was established to serve the people, however, it does not seem to exist that way now. In fact we notified (Cagayan de Oro) Bishop Jesus Tuquib on the complaints we are receiving, but up to now there seems to be no response. Now, we (would) prefer other hospitals," Father Cabatingan said.

Dr. Alfonso Veneracion, hospital licensing section chief of the Center for Health Development in Northern Mindanao, said a hospital's prime concern should be the life of patients. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Suspected rapists nabbed

DAVAO CITY—Police authorities in Davao del Sur arrested on Friday two of the three main suspects in Monday's rape-slay of an 18-year-old daughter of a policeman in Sta. Cruz town. Brothers Alfredo and Almer Calipes were taken into police custody after witnesses implicated them in the death of Maria Estella Antaran, a second year college student at the Digos City Polytechnic School. The victim, daughter of Sta. Cruz police officer SPO3 Manuel Antaran, took a bath at a public pump near their home in Barangay Zone 2 early evening of July 15, when the suspects, along with a third one attacked her. The teenager's body was discovered at around 8:45 p.m. Police said Antaran's body bore bruises, which indicated that she fought her assailants. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fish techno caravan

LUCENA CITY—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will stage a "fishery technology caravan" in different coastal towns of Quezon province to promote awareness on modern fishery technologies. Fishery experts accompanying the caravan are conducting trainings in Calauag, Quezon, the Ragay Gulf areas, and in this city from July 22 to 30. Among the topics being discussed are mangrove-friendly aquaculture, fish culture in tanks, lake management, rice-fish culture, rice-*ulang* culture, freshwater prawn, grouper in ponds, fish cage in reservoir and dams, backyard fishpond, environment-friendly schemes in intensive shrimp farming and marine sea cage and freshwater culture of "maliputo." ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Incumbents win polls

NAGA CITY—Majority of the incumbents in Camarines Sur dominated the recently held barangay elections. At least only Bula town has reported that 20 of the 33 incumbent barangay chiefs were defeated. In this city, 21 of the 27 incumbents won the elections and the trend was the same in Iriga City and the rest of the remaining 34 towns in the province. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Cockpit raid

BULA, Camarines Sur—Eight policemen, including the police chief in this town, are in hot water after a raid in a cockpit here. The policemen are now facing administrative and criminal raps at the Office of the Ombudsman and the Regional Trial Court for abuse of authority and trespassing. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Coop loses P13M

NAGA CITY—A power cooperative here has claimed it had made wrong deductions in the bills collected since August last year that resulted in a P13-million loss in income. Rolando Pante, finance manager of Camarines Sur II Electric Cooperative (Casureco II), said the power coop's losses resulted from double deduction of P0.30 in purchased power adjustment (PPA). Pante said the wrong deduction stemmed from a memorandum from the National Power Corp. to reflect separately a P0.30 deduction in PPA. He said the Casureco II has submitted to the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) the authority to add P0.13 in the consumers' power bills upon approval of the request. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Dads stops road project

NAGA CITY—The city council here has passed a resolution demanding a halt in the destruction of a concrete road in Barangay Del Rosario after its contractors left the rehabilitation work of the Maharlika Highway unfinished and posing danger to motorists. The rehabilitation work is a portion of the multibillion-peso asphalt overlay project from Quezon province to Matnog. Sorsogon, which the Department of Public Works and Highways contracted to three Manila-based contractors. The councilors also demanded the resignation of top DPWH officials in Bicol who are directly responsible for the monitoring of the project. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Unfilled SK position

NAGA CITY—Several barangays in this city have no Sangguniang Kabataan chairpersons after the last elections. The SK chair position in these areas was not filled up because no one had filed certificates of candidacy. Emmanuel Monares, Commission on Elections registrar, said he will ask the Comelec national office to advise them on what action to take. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

NGO concerned over GMA's silence on coco levy

Ms Macapagal did not report P700M release she made in Davao, says COIR

LUCENA CITY—An official of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (Coir) has expressed concern over the absence of any report on the status of the multibillion-peso coconut levy during President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address.

"Something is brewing," Joey Faustino, Coir executive director, said here yesterday before an assembly of peasant leaders.

Faustino pointed out that Ms Macapagal should have reported her order for the release of P700 million from the United Coconut Planters Bank-Coconut Insurance and Investment Fund, which she made in Davao in early July. "That's one achievement that she could legitimately claimed as hers in the coconut levy front," he said.

"We expected her to repeat her instruction on that point. Sort of a formal report as part of her Sona," Faustino said.

"But why was there no mention of it? It's a disturbing development," he said.

The Coir official said they have received information that the Cocofed clique is bent on blocking the release of the fund.

"Did GMA give in to the pressure because of the 2004 factor?" Faustino asked. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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INDIGENOUS LAND TITLE

Obscure Cordillera town makes history

By Maurice Malanes
Bakun, Benguet

AT the second crow of roosters on July 20, some residents of the obscure upland town of Bakun in Benguet were already awake, ready to butcher and cook five pigs and a cow, which a *manbunong* (traditional priest) had just offered to Kabunian (Supreme Being) and the spirits.

NCIP Chair Evelyn Dunuan awards the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title to Kankanaey and Bago elders led by Bakun Mayor Bartolome Sacla Sr. (in vest). MAURICE MALANES

As the scent of pine firewood smoke and the aroma of steamed meat pervaded the municipal hall grounds, representatives from Bakun's seven barangays and guests from Manila, Baguio City and the Benguet provincial government began arriving by 8 a.m.

They all trooped to Bakun for a historic event—the awarding of a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) for the town, the homeland of 17,000 Kankanaey and Bago people.

The event was enough reason for the indigenous folk to hold a feast and thank Kabunian and government agencies, which helped process the CADT.

The first to be awarded ever to an indigenous community in the country, the CADT for Bakun, which covers 29,444.34 hectares, must also be the first in the world, said visiting officials.

Benguet Vice Gov. Edna Tabanda said the American Indians in the United States, the acclaimed bastion of democracy in the world, don't have land titles as they still live in government reservations.

The awarding came two days before President Macapagal-Arroyo presented her report card through her State of the Nation Address on Monday.

Had the Bakun CADT not been awarded, Ms Macapagal would have nothing to show for her promise in her Sona last year—to award 100 CADTs to the country's various indigenous peoples.

The awarding also came more than four years after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, by virtue of an administrative order, issued to the Bakun people a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) on March 13, 1998. It also came three years after the Bakun people applied for a CADT in 1999.

The CADC merely recognizes the upland folk's right to manage, protect and use their land and resources. The CADT goes a step further because it now recognizes the Bakun people's "collective ownership" of their domain.

Act of Kabunian

Did the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) cram just so the President would have something to report in her Sona?

Not at all, said NCIP Chair Evelyn Dunuan, who awarded the CADT to Bakun officials led by Mayor Bartolome Sacla.

The CADT awarding was an "act of Kabunian or God" and "it happened because the Bakun people willed it," Dunuan said, stressing that the Kankanaey and Bago people themselves earned their CADT.

Dunuan noted, for example, how the Kankanaey and Bago people employed their age-old *tongtong*, a traditional justice system of resolving disputes by consensus, to help settle boundary conflicts with neighboring towns.

This, she said, made it easier for the government's technical staff to survey and validate the metes and bounds of the Bakun ancestral domain.

Through the Bakun Indigenous Tribes Organization (Bito), a homegrown people's organization, and the municipal and barangay governments, the Bakun people also did other pre-CADT requirements, which made them deserve the CADT they have long awaited.

The Bakun folk themselves did their genealogy and baseline survey, updated their census and did other requirements, thus helping speed up the CADT processing.

Assessing the whole process, Leilene Carantes-Gallardo, NCIP director for the Cordillera, said the Bakun people themselves did 90 percent of the whole pre-CADT requirements.

In contrast, other indigenous communities could hardly go beyond their CADC, said Dunuan. The reason, she lamented, was not only about boundary conflicts, but also about squabbles over turf among and between non-government and peoples' organizations and government agencies.

But Bakun is different, she said. She hailed the Bakun people for showing how a united community could draw the sympathy and support of the provincial government and other agencies, such as the departments of agrarian reform, agriculture, environment and natural resources and the NCIP.

The Bakun people were also lucky to have drawn funding and technical support from outfits such as the Asian Development Bank loan-funded CHARMP (Cordillera Highland Agriculture Resource Management Project) and International Labor Organization-Inter-Regional Program to Support Self-Reliance of Indigenous Tribal Organizations through Cooperatives and Self-Help Organizations (ILO-INDISCO).

"But the Bakun people had proved that it was their unity and community-driven initiative, not outside technical and financial support, which spelled the difference," said Domingo Nayahangan of ILO-INDISCO. "Donor agencies only played facilitative roles."

Meaning, challenge

What does a CADT mean to the Bakun people?

"It (CADT) will surely strengthen our rights to protect and manage our lands, forests and rivers, which our ancestors nurtured and bequeathed to us," said Sacla.

The issuance of the Bakun CADT also signifies that government now wants to get real in officially recognizing the native titles of indigenous peoples, which they already had long before colonizers introduced the Regalian Doctrine, said Cameron Odsey, CHARMP director.

For Amos Beta-a of Bito, the awarding of the CADT signals the start of more tasks ahead. He cited the need for the Bakun people to give more details and mechanics for a drafted "Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Framework" and transform this into a comprehensive long-term development plan.

The plan, which will be integrated with Bakun's municipal master development plan, will help guide, direct and chart appropriate development approaches for the fifth class town, he said.

The CADT, said young elder Victor Compelio, could also draw a better sense of responsibility and accountability from among the Bakun people.

"Because the government has finally recognized our collective ownership over our ancestral domain, we will surely become more serious in guarding and nurturing our lands and resources," he said.

Beta-a said the CADT could be one of the Bakun people's vital legal shields against the usual threats to indigenous communities—big mining, big dams and logging.

A second home for PMA cadets

By Jem Lim and Zandinah Lenn Velasco
Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City

HOME is where the heart is. It's a lesson most Philippine Military Academy cadets learn while staying in their barracks, pushing their mental, physical and emotional selves to the limit.

"I'm from Cauayan, Isabela, and I need a foster parent from Baguio who will serve as my guardian here," said Cadet Third Class Marzon Casis who greeted his host parents with a smile.

Casis is one of the 217 third class cadets who were given the chance to have a "second home, far away from home," during last Sunday's launching of the host parents program of the 104-year-old PMA.

This year, 115 families from Baguio City were selected and endorsed by the PMA liaison committee and Baguio host parents' executive committee to serve as foster parents of the cadets.

"When cadets reach their third year, they are given the privilege of having a foster family," said Lt. (j.g.) Alvin Lopez, acting PMA information officer.

On Friday night, the cadets were asked to choose from the 115 listed host parents. Only two to three cadets are assigned to each fos-

A PHILIPPINE Military Academy cadet cuddles his foster brother during a gathering at Fort del Pilar. JEM LIM

from the government. This is all in the spirit of volunteerism," Lopez said.

The first PMA-Baguio host parents program was launched on July 7, 1979 by Brig. Gen. Angel Kanapi, then PMA superintendent and a member of PMA Class 1953, and then Col. Renato de Villa, a member of the PMA Class 1957 who later became defense secretary.

The members of the PMA Class 1982 were the first recipients of the program. To date, about 4,000 cadets have benefited from its implementation.

"My foster son graduated last year and ranked first in his class. He's now working in the Philippine Air Force and calls every now and then just to greet me," said a retired schoolteacher who has been volunteering as a foster mother since 1982.

Care and love

Like her, other foster parents prefer to be unnamed, since, according to them, they are just "giving the PMA cadets care and love like ordinary parents do."

"My (foster) son, Oliver, who is now an Army captain, is one of the government soldiers who fought in Basilan and rescued (Abu Sayyaf hostage) Gracia Burnham. When he was fighting in the jungles of Mindanao, he would text me and say, 'Hey dad, I'm so sorry I missed shooting an Abu a while ago,'" said Thomas Morado, secretary of the PMA-Baguio Host Parents Association's executive committee.

"That's the price of being a parent, knowing that your sons will remember you wherever time lead them to," he added.

On the other hand, foster parents are not allowed to give cadets any form of material things, especially cash and liquor. Home parents are also prohibited from interfering with legal matters involving their foster children.

"They must not give any cash or material gifts. Financing is not part of a foster parent's role," said Dr. Amelia Mapagu, a member of the executive committee.

"Just like an ideal family, we pamper our children with love, monitor their studies and ask their problems often. Love begets love. And I assure you, when you love someone, a cadet or not, wherever they are they will surely come home," she said.

A contemporary look at 'batek'

By Ikin Salvador
Contributor

THE *BATEK* (tattoo) of a Kalinga warrior is a visually powerful rendering of the record of tribal wars and a painful mark of *rite de passage* in Lubo society in southern Kalinga.

One such warrior, Lakay Juanito Ollasic, now in his 80s, is proud of his tattoos. During the opening of a batek exhibition at the University of the Philippines College Baguio recently, Ollasic recalled the days when he fought the Japanese as a neophyte warrior.

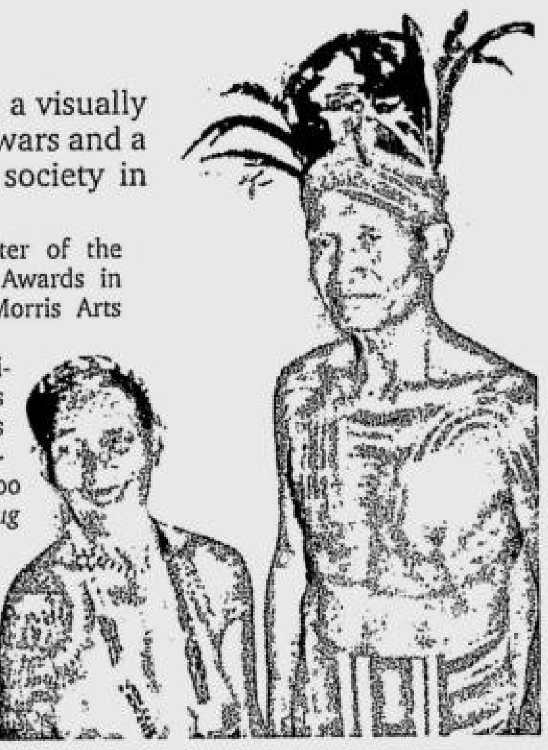
His successful participation in *baruknit* (inter-village conflicts) earned him elaborate tattoo designs and the recognition of his being an undaunted *maingor* (warrior).

More than five decades after he made his debut as a warrior, Ollasic has become a respected elder of his community.

But the batek is a vanishing tradition in the Cordillera. The gradual demise of headhunting and headtaking practices in the region in the 1950s has lost the significance of *batek* and tattoing.

Baguio-based artist Frank Sabado, who is known for his artworks that have a lot of Cordillera motifs and designs, could be an exception.

He started to tattoo his wrists 10 years ago. His passion for tattoos found a deeper meaning after he won the Cultural Center of the Philippines' 13 Artists Awards in 2000 and the Philip Morris Arts Awards in 2002.



LAKAY Ollasic and his wife Patundanum say they are proud of their batek. IKIN SALVADOR

Sabado added traditional designs to his wrists extending to his upper arm. A combination of traditional tattoo designs from Kalinga (*ufug* or centipede scales) and Bontoc (*kinilat* or lightning) was pierced through his skin by a modern tattoo artist.

Cordillera culture

"The tattoos on my skin were a reminder of the Cordillera culture and a record of my achievements as an artist for the past years," a proud Sabado said.

A multi-awarded artist, the 32-year-old Sabado said major events in his life are "recorded" in his tattoos.

Traditional tattoos in Kalinga are made through hand-tapped pricking by a *manbatek* (tattoo artist). The manbatek uses a tattoo instrument made of carabao horn and sharp needles. This makes tattooing a painful and lengthy process. It takes a day or a week to finish a *batek*, depending on the design, with the tattoo artist making 90 to 120 pricks per minute.

OLLASIC and Baguio-based visual artist Frank Sabado EV ESPIRITU

When Sabado finally met Lakay Ollasic during the batek exhibition opening last month, the artist was full of admiration for the old warrior's original tattoo designs.

"It was an honor to meet him and to touch his skin," Sabado said.

Ollasic, who found Sabado's tattoos unique on their own, said the context of how the artist "earned" his tattoos connotes "a brave person who is strong enough to endure pain to make a statement to society."

In a way, while tattoos in the past were "badges of honor," today these are "badges of awards."

Sabado said he dreams of having a body full of tattoos like that of Lakay Ollasic that could serve as a "diary" of his life and also as a means of preserving the vanishing tradition of *batek*.

Senators squabble again

From page A1

Sen. Panfilo Lacson had praised the majority for not nullifying the June 3-6 session, as doing so, he said, would spark intense debate.

But Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda Leviste, who skirted Pimentel's move by adjourning yesterday's session, confidently told reporters that the deadlock would be broken.

"You will know by Monday. We will talk among ourselves and resolve that," Legarda said.

Joint declaration

The "indefinite ceasefire" was jointly declared by Drilon and opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara, after their meeting yesterday morning. Legarda and Pimentel were also present in the meeting.

Drilon said both groups agreed to "behave" by avoiding political bickering and identifying pieces of legislation both groups wanted to pursue and approve.

He said they wanted to defer any discussions on the twin issues of the validity of the June 3-6 session and the matter of committee chairmanships.

"Senators Angara and Pimentel have proposed that we should allow ourselves time to resolve this problem in the desire to have a working Senate and proceed with the agenda," Drilon said.

He said he has asked Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Legarda to meet with Angara and Pimentel to forge a common legislative agenda.

Angara said both sides agreed to skirt the two major issues that divided the Senate for almost two months.

He said it no longer mattered to the opposition whether they would be given committee chairmanships.

"Because if we start on that footing or basis, then the whole mood will be set by the resulting bitter debate and discussion. What for? We have important things to do and so we said let us set that aside," Angara said.

"We want to show to our people that we are more concerned about our productivity rather than the division that separates us. We don't know if one week (of ceasefire) will do, or one month, but I hope it's permanent," he stressed.

Bills passed

In yesterday's session, Pimentel noted that the opposition's new majority passed four bills: on absentee voting, the proposed Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Free Patent Law and the so-called Chainsaw Act. The last two were authored by Jaworksi.

"We believe we had the quorum to transact the business of the Senate, undertake the revamp and reorganization," Pimentel said.

The administration coalition, which lost the majority when Sen. John Osmeña defected to the opposition on June 3, has maintained that the takeover and the four-day session that followed were illegal.

Villar said it was status quo as far as committee chairmanships were concerned—meaning the arrangement in place before Drilon adjourned the session sine die.

But Osmeña has offered to relinquish the chairmanship of the committees on finance and local government.

Sen. Juan Flavier and Sen. Robert Barbers said the finance portfolio may be given either to Villar or Sen. Ralph Recto.

Flavier also said the minority has recognized Legarda as the majority leader. Recognition of Villar as Senate president pro tempore, however, will depend on another development: if Sen. Blas Ople will become the next foreign secretary. Ople is to meet with the President today.

Flavier said both parties had agreed to allow Angara to make his own "State of the Nation address" on the Senate floor today in the interest of civility.

"(The Senate coup) is a traumatic and humbling experience for all us, and I hope that in our present relationship, we can rehabilitate the fractured image of the Senate," Flavier said.

Jaworski's loan

For his part, Jaworski yesterday denied reports that he had defected in exchange for the deferment of collection on a P300-million loan he reportedly contracted with the Philippine National Bank.

"(The loan) is not mine but belongs to a former business partner," a fuming mad Jaworski told Senate reporters.

The former cage star said rumors about the loan were "all politically motivated and part of an ugly bad propaganda (sic)."

Jaworski admitted that he and his business partner, a certain Gaerlan, obtained a loan from PNB in "late 1996 or early 1997 to acquire a vessel" for their shipping business.

"However, the business partnership turned sour and there was an agreement that we split all the assets and liabilities," Jaworski said.

When they decided to dissolve the partnership, he said he was assigned the vessel which was not covered by the PNB loan, while Gaerlan got the vessel purchased through the loan "as well as the obligations attached to it."

"I even made representations so that I also shouldered some obligations about that other vessel," he said.

Jaworski maintained that the outstanding loan with PNB was "(Gaerlan's) obligation."

"As for me, whatever business obligations I have are all covered by collateral," he said.

"It's nothing else but political," Jaworski described the rumors.

He even hinted that his former colleagues in the opposition may have been behind the propaganda.

"They better ask themselves about their own indiscretions before they make accusations against me," Jaworski said.

In Malacañang, the President praised Jaworski's decision to join the administration coalition, calling it "a boost for strong institutions and for a strong republic."

"I am grateful for such development," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in Filipino Monday night in a TV interview.

She said Jaworski's joining the administration coalition not only broke the stalemate in the Senate but also "assures us of support from the Senate and Congress for our needed legislation." ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

GMA gives envoys marching orders

From page A1

sive in the war on terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling and kidnapping.

The President started a teleconference that lasted more than an hour by doing away with the pleasantries.

She immediately told Josue Villa, ambassador to Beijing, to tap the 400 million Chinese who are "well-off enough" to travel to the Philippines.

She said these tourists could be allowed to come in "without visas." Instead, they can be provided landed visas upon their arrival at the Laoag International Airport. But the Chinese tourists should come in on "package tours," she added, in order to prevent unscrupulous individuals from engaging in "illegal business" in the country.

"We have to be very frank to our host that most of those arrested and involved in drug trafficking and kidnapping were Chinese nationals," the President told Villa.

Ms Macapagal noted that many Chinese nationals wanted to learn the English language and that the Philippines could very well provide them with the "human resources" they need to learn it.

Arms smuggling

She also told Rafael Seguis, ambassador to Indonesia, to help put a stop to the rampant arms smuggling between the Philippines and Indonesia by criminal syndicates.

She instructed Willy Gaa, ambassador to Australia, and Albert del Rosario, ambassador to the United States, to highlight the country's competitiveness by pushing for Philippine products and finding market access for the country's bananas, pineapple, rubber and canned tuna.

She commended Del Rosario for his "aggressive representation of our interest."

Other ambassadors who took part in the teleconference were former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr. (Tokyo), Clemencio Montesa (Brussels), Joseph Bernardo (Madrid), Hector Villaroel (Paris), Justo Orros (Mexico), Bahnarim Guinomla (Riyadh), Samuel Ramel (Geneva-United Nations Mission) and Edsel Custodio (World Trade Organization).

The President instructed Custodio to hire five "good negotiators" for the WTO, for the country to sharpen its competitive edge and attract good investments.

Other posts were also on line: Berne, Budapest, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Caracas, Pretoria, Cairo and Ottawa.

Among the Department of Foreign Affairs officials present during the teleconference were Senior Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr., Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin, DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros and King Sorreta of the DFA Office of American Affairs.

During the teleconference, the President also announced that she had already accepted the resignation of Merlin Magallona, undersecretary for migrant workers affairs and an appointee of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., the former foreign secretary.

She replaced Magallona with Jose Brillantes, ambassador to Malaysia.

The President also said she would embark on official visits to Europe in September: to Madrid on Sept. 18, Barcelona on Sept. 20, the Vatican on Sept. 21 and Copenhagen on Sept. 22 until Sept. 24, for the Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem).

She said she would be meeting with King Juan Carlos of Spain, whom she had first met in the late 1960s, when he was still crown prince.

STEPPING up her campaign to help the poor, President Macapagal distributes Philhealth cards during a ceremony at the Quirino Grandstand. EDWIN BACASMAS

'Where did Gloria buy galunggong at ₱60/kilo?'

From page A1

yung P60, P70 *magkano ba yung binili mo?* P70 *yung sinabi ko ha.* From P80 to P70. *Magkano ba yung nabili nyo?*" she said, frowning.

Davila replied that her crew also found some being sold at P60 a kilo. "There you are," the President shot back.

Conrado Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, said the President did buy *galunggong* last week.

"It's true that she went to the market last week. In fact it was the fish vendor who presented the *galunggong* at P60," he said.

Incomplete picture

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday said that the President failed to paint a complete picture of poverty in her second Sona.

"Even while she once more declared that the 'fundamental war' is against 'poverty,' her Sona avoids the big picture of poverty that our people not only see but feel," CBCP president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said in a statement.

"What the people feel about their lives has to be addressed," said Quevedo, who is in New York for a meeting.

He said the Sona should have "elaborated on the linkage of hope and the many concrete things the President has set out to do."

Quevedo expressed discomfort over the President's reference to the "stone" of social justice that her late father President Diosdado Macapagal had set from which she intended to build a progressive and strong republic.

"Understandably, the President looks up to her father as a model. But all former Presidents have their own failures. Attributing the 'stone' of social justice to her father is likely to create controversy," he said.

Quevedo nevertheless said that the President had fulfilled her promises.

In Tacloban City, a nongovernment organization called "SONAWatch" said the President's commitments to Eastern Visayas had yet to be seen and felt by the people.

SONAWatch is a project sponsored by the Institute of Democratic Participation in Governance and Media for Development and Democratization (M4DD).

Phillip Ting, M4DD program director for research and publication, said the projects promised by the President on education and other social services had "no impact at all" because the government agencies tasked with improving the lives of the Filipino people "did not do their best."

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), for example, reported that it distributed 1,380 computers to 69 national high schools in the region.

SONAWatch said it found that "majority of these computers were not used because no one knows how to operate them."

In the House of Representatives, the opposition rejected the achievements claimed by the President.

Seven sins

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the President had actually committed "seven capital sins" to the Filipino people.

He identified these as the imposition of the purchased power adjustment charge with the enactment of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, poor financial management that led to a budget deficit of at least P107.5 billion, and inability to confront the poverty problem;

Failure to fight corruption and to ensure peace and order, promotion of politics of destruction, and inability to deliver basic services as shown by the backlog in the construction of school buildings.

An administration senator said Ms Macapagal's targets in her second Sona would remain a dream without funding.

"A strong republic cannot exist on emaciated coffers. A strong republic is anchored on a solid revenue base," Sen. Ralph Recto said. ***With reports from Armand Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; and Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

College Assurance Plan fund ₱2.5B deficient

From page A1

that most pre-need companies failed to meet claims or obligations to plan holders because of bad trust fund investments and unrealistic assumptions.

Since the first pre-need product was introduced in the country 36 years ago, the pre-need industry has grown into a multibillion-peso business. In 2001, the industry generated more than P37 billion in sales. There are some 5 million plan holders.

However, several pre-need companies have folded up and left thousands of plan holders holding an empty bag.

Under the rules of the SEC, pre-need companies must set aside a portion of the premiums or payments collected from plan holders to build up the trust fund.

A trust fund is a critical component in the mechanism designed to guarantee the capacity of pre-need plan companies to meet their future obligations to stakeholders, according to the SEC.

The trust fund should equal the appropriate level that actuaries had determined for a certain year given certain economic assumptions.

Santos said CAP offered certain pieces of property, cash and bonds to plug the 2001 trust fund deficiency.

He said that the funding program may include some Metro Rail Transit Corp. (MRTC) bonds. "The bonds will be issued shortly," Santos said. CAP's trust fund has an investment in MRTC.

The CAP education plan, which has P30.2 billion in total assets, manages P11.6 billion in total trust funds, according to Sobrepeña. He said the company had paid a total of P6.6 billion in tuition to more than 40,000 gradnates and P787.2 million in pension benefits.

The number of pre-need firms licensed to do business this year dropped to 46 from more than 50 last year as some could not meet certain requirements of the SEC, including trust fund commitments.

In a report earlier this year, the SEC's non-traditional securities and instruments department said that the accumulated trust fund deficiency of the pre-need plan industry went down to P746.5 million as of October 2001 from P3.9 billion as of December 2000.

As of 2001, the SEC said the pre-need industry had an aggregate trust fund of P33 billion, of which 30.9 percent was used to buy government securities. Twenty-four percent financed new business ventures and/or expansion while 20.3 percent was placed in property development.

The remainder of the total represented cash in hand and placements in common trust funds, commercial papers, promissory notes and mutual funds.

There are moves in Congress to transfer the regulation of pre-need companies from the SEC to the Insurance Commission. Bills in Congress are calling for stricter and clearer rules to govern the pre-need industry.

Manicurist prompted GMA to act

From page A1

In an interview Monday night on PTV-4's Teledyaryo, the President noted that her manicurist, whom she did not identify by name, went to the police but the police could not go after the robbers "because they lack communications and other related equipment."

"We need these equipment in order to strengthen the government's campaign against criminality," Ms Macapagal said in Filipino.

The President mentioned the need to reallocate resources in her State of the Nation Address in which she declared war on criminal and terrorist groups.

In the same interview on PTV-4, Ms Macapagal defended her decision to return administrative control over police forces to mayors, starting with local executives in Metro Manila.

The President said mayors would have wider latitude in fighting criminal activities once they regained control of policemen.

She also reiterated her call for the Philippine National Police to rid itself of officers and men in cahoots with criminals.

"There are rascals and they are destroying the organization," she said. "In spite of that, there are many good policemen."

Ms Macapagal mentioned the suspected kidnappers killed in a shootout in Bulacan last Saturday with the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response group.

The President said that the dead suspect was a policeman who had gone Awol (absent without official leave) and had been acting as leader and chief negotiator of a kidnap-for-ransom syndicate.

"If they want to fight crime, then they should start cleaning the PNP itself," the President also said.

EDWIN BACASMAS

ANITA Valderama

AN ELDERLY Palestinian ponders the future as he walks through the rubble in central Gaza City. AFP

Israeli missile kills Hamas commander

From page A1

Cabinet ministers.

"We hit perhaps the most senior Hamas figure on the operational side," Sharon said of Shehadeh, who was jailed first by Israel, and then by the Palestinians, from 1988 to 1999.

Since his release, Shehadeh had spent much of his time hiding in Gaza, setting Hamas policy for attacks and giving orders to militants who carried them out, Israel said.

Palestinian security sources said Shehadeh was No. 1 on Israel's list of most wanted terrorists.

Even so, a Palestinian Cabinet minister, Saeb Erekat, told BBC that the attack was a "despicable" war crime meant to stifle diplomacy.

"In my opinion this is Sharon's effort to torpedo any effort to revive the peace process," he said.

Sharon said Israel must be on full alert for reprisals and another welter of violence. The Gaza assault marked an escalation of Israel's military effort to quell a Palestinian revolt led by suicide bombers.

Officials at Gaza City's Shifa Hospital confirmed 11 people—two babies, six children and three adults—were killed and at least 145 others were wounded in the overnight strike that demolished five houses in the Baraj residential district.

The youngest killed was only 2 months old, and 15 of the wounded were in serious condition, Shifa doctors said.

They did not identify Shehadeh among the victims. Hamas sources said his body had not been found, but they added Shehadeh, his wife Leileh, their 14-year-old daughter Iman and a bodyguard were inside their home during the air strike. All four are now considered dead.

Confusion reigned for hours over Shehadeh's fate, with Hamas initially saying he had been killed, then saying he was alive.

Combing rubble

Dazed residents stumbled through the dust and debris, looking for loved ones as ambulance sirens wailed. Children were rushed away on stretchers through the crowds.

"This is a massacre against our people," said Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi, a senior Hamas spokesperson.

"Retaliation is coming and everything is considered a target," he said. "Hamas' retaliation will come very soon, and there won't be only just one (attack). After this crime, even Israelis in their homes will be the targets of our operations."

Israel described the attack as self-defense against Palestinian suicide bomber networks.

UN condemnation

At the United Nations, chief spokesperson Fred Eckhard said Israel had a legal and moral responsibility to take all measures to avoid the loss of innocent life.

"It clearly failed to do so in using a missile against an apartment building. Secretary General Kofi Annan calls on the government of Israel to halt such actions and conduct itself in a manner fully consistent with international humanitarian law."

Asked about Eckhard's statement, an Israeli foreign ministry spokesperson said that Israeli children had also been killed in Palestinian suicide bombings.

In Gaza City, hundreds of Hamas supporters took to the streets, firing in the air and chanting: "Where is the revenge of Qassam?" Angry Palestinian crowds also held rallies in the towns of Rafah and Khan Younis.

More violence

In other violence, five Palestinian militants were killed in clashes with the Israeli Army, bringing the overall Palestinian death toll for the day to 20.

Two Palestinians were killed during an exchange of fire Tuesday morning on the edge of the Gaza Strip, the Army said. The militant group Islamic Jihad said its members carried out the attack.

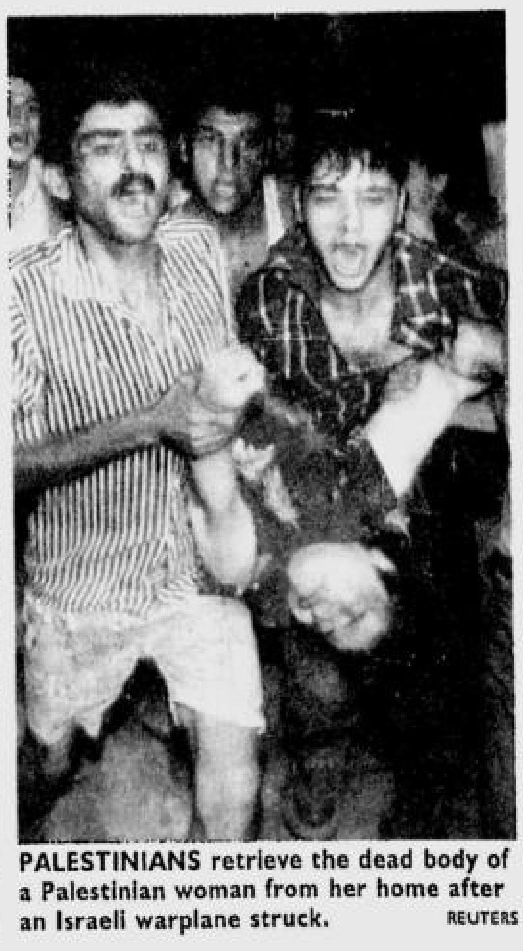
Near the West Bank city of Nablus, three Palestinian gunmen, disguised in Israeli military uniforms, were shot dead in a gun battle, the Army added.

Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war and handed their main towns to Palestinian self-rule under interim peace deals in 1994-95. But Israeli troops and Jewish settlements are present in swathes of the territories.

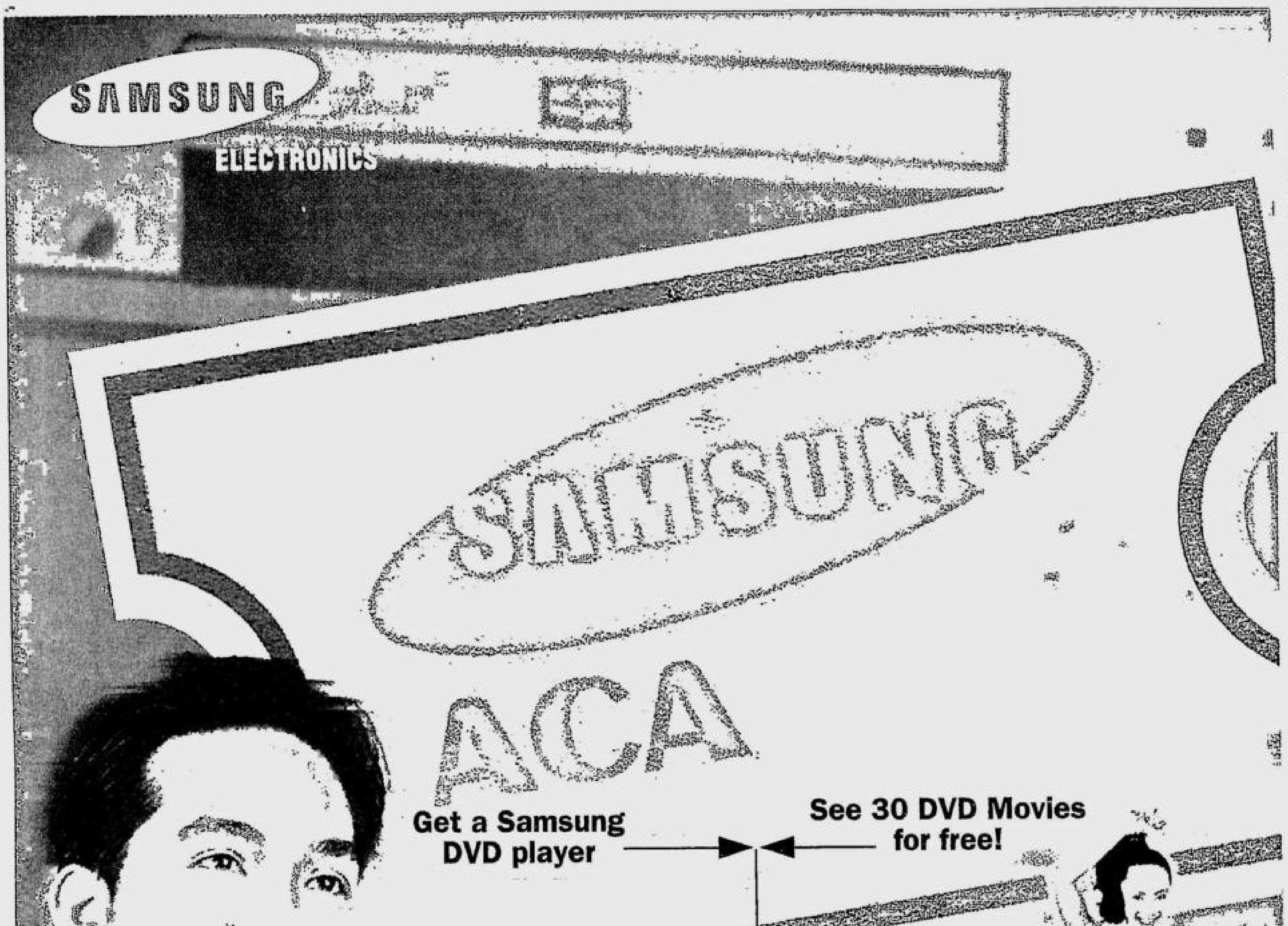
An uprising by Palestinians, however, erupted after US-brokered talks on Palestinian statehood in the West Bank and Gaza stalled in September 2000.

In nearly 22 months of Mideast fighting, more than 1,780 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 778 on the Israeli side.

Israeli troops have occupied seven Palestinian cities and towns for more than a month, a response to earlier Palestinian attacks. ***Reports from AP and Reuters***



PALESTINIANS retrieve the dead body of a Palestinian woman from her home after an Israeli warplane struck. REUTERS



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Patriotic act

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE was no doubt about his talent or his courage. But more than that and more to the point, there was also no doubt about Francisco "Django" Bustamante's patriotic act at the just-ended 2002 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, where he decided to continue to play and finish the tournament for the sake of flag and country even though he was in emotional tatters following the death of his youngest daughter, Mariel, last Friday.

"I played for the Philippines and the Filipino people," said the 38-year-old Bustamante in an interview. "Mariel was with me at Cardiff to guide me win and I dedicate this silver medal to her. I know she is proud of me."

Bustamante almost abandoned the 42-nation tournament when he learned about the death of his eight-month-old daughter. But he rose from the awful wreck of this personal tragedy by continuing to play, showing greatness in the process by defeating compatriots and Puyat Sports teammates Antonio Lining, 11-10, in a Final 16 match and much later his idol and mentor Efren "Bata" Reyes, 11-8, in the quarterfinals. Bustamante, the 1998 Billiards Player of the Year, then whipped Chinese-Taipeh's Ching Shun-yang, 11-7, in the semifinals, setting the stage for a title showdown against American legend Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, who won the nerve-wracking finals, 17-15.

But it was the unexpected death of his daughter that pained him the most, saying that Mariel was healthy—very much alive and well—when he left for Cardiff. "It was painful, very painful."

SPORTSWATCH

Tour heads to Alps

VAISON-LA-ROMAINE, France—Just as fans and rivals are getting used to his amazing feats in the mountains, Lance Armstrong wants to slow down. On Tuesday, the Tour de France was headed for the Alps, where the Texan took control of last year's race with memorable wins at L'Alpe d'Huez and Chamrousse. This time, he's on course to win the title–his fourth in a row–even before the Alps, and doesn't want to risk losing time by being unnecessarily aggressive there. "The smart thing to do is to ride conservative now," Armstrong said Sunday. *AP*

'Emblem' owner dies

AHMED

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia—Prince Ahmed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, owner of Kentucky Derby winner War Emblem and 2001 horse of the year Point Given, died Monday of a heart attack at age 43. Ahmed, a nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and also chairman of a publishing empire, died in the capital of Riyadh. The U.S.-educated Ahmed spent $900,000 to buy War Emblem just three weeks before the Kentucky Derby, after the horse won the Illinois Derby. *AP*

Sports docs coming

RENOWNED sports psychologist Dr. Remco Polman and exercise physiologist Dr. Willy Pieter will be here in Manila to conduct a sports psychology and sports science symposium at the University of Asia and the Pacific on Aug. 3 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. For inquiries, call the National Athletic Training and Fitness Academy (NATFA) at 921-7224. The event is organized by the UA&P Sports Development Program-Office of Student Affairs and the NATFA.

CAGE TIPS

Batang Red Bull import Tony Lang (right) gives important tips to young basketball hopefuls when he guested Sunday at the opening of the Milo Best SBP/Passerelle tournament at the St. Benedict College courts in Alabang Hills. Lang, the PBA Best Import when the Thunder won the Commissioner's Cup title last year, also gave an inspirational talk and signed autographs.

ALL ALONE

Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen's Michael Yap pulls away from the rest of the pack en route to posting the fastest laptime of 1:41.733 in the second lap to rule the Formula Heavy class of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series sixth leg at the Batangas Racing Circuit. The event was sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, ZED, Nokia, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through Chair Livia "Honeygirl" de Leon.

SEA wrestling tilt gets going Aug. 7

MORE than 100 wrestlers from Southeast Asia will take part in the fourth Southeast Asian Wrestling Championship at the Badminton Hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Aug. 7.

Wrestlers representing the Southeast Asian Wrestling Federation (SEAWREF) countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines—are seeing action in the four-day event.

On tap in the championship sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority and Milo are nine weight categories in both Greco-Roman and Freestyle for men and seven weight classes in Freestyle for women.

The championship is a vital component of the preparation of our wrestlers who will compete in the Busan Asian Games in September and the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

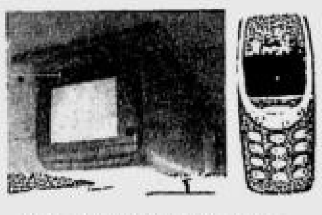
Filipino wrestlers being honed by Mongolian Lodoi Enkhbayar, an Olympic fourth placer and Asian champion the past two years, are competing.

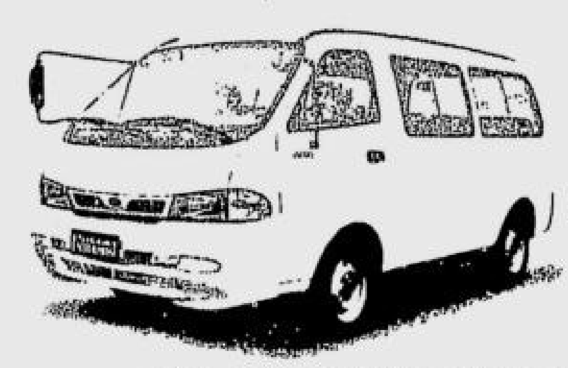
Wrestling returns to the SEA Games next year after an absence of eight years.

The last time wrestling was played in the SEA Games in Jakarta, Filipino wrestlers shared with the shooters the distinction of producing the most number of medals with 18 apiece.

With the Indonesia's inability to host the championship last year, WAP took up the cudgels with the sanction of International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (Fila) and SEAWREF.

KA





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Engine displacement	2665	2986	2476	2477
4 Captain's chairs	✓	—	—	—
All coil front suspension	✓	—	—	—
All coil rear suspension	✓	✓	✓	✓
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD w/ LCD TV	✓	—	—	—
Side mirrors w/ demistor	✓	—	—	—
Roof rack w/ rails	✓	—	—	—
Alloy wheels	✓	—	✓	—
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3 yrs/110,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.
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Swivelling 2nd row seat	✓	—	—	—
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD with TV	✓	—	—	—
2-tone body colors	✓	—	✓	✓
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3 yrs/110,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.
SRP	P 745,000	P867,000	P840,000	P780,000

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Patriotic act

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE was no doubt about his talent or his courage. But more than that and more to the point, there was also no doubt about Francisco "Django" Bustamante's patriotic act at the just-ended 2002 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, where he decided to continue to play and finish the tournament for the sake of flag and country even though he was in emotional tatters following the death of his youngest daughter, Mariel, last Friday.

"I played for the Philippines and the Filipino people," said the 38-year-old Bustamante in an interview. "Mariel was with me at Cardiff to guide me win and I dedicate this silver medal to her. I know she is proud of me."

Bustamante almost abandoned the 42-nation tournament when he learned about the death of his eight-month-old daughter. But he rose from the awful wreck of this personal tragedy by continuing to play, showing greatness in the process by defeating compatriots and Puyat Sports teammates Antonio Lining, 11-10, in a Final 16 match and much later his idol and mentor Efren "Bata" Reyes, 11-8, in the quarterfinals. Bustamante, the 1998 Billiards Player of the Year, then whipped Chinese-Taipeh's Ching Shun-yang, 11-7, in the semifinals, setting the stage for a title showdown against American legend Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, who won the nerve-wracking finals, 17-15.

But it was the unexpected death of his daughter that pained him the most, saying that Mariel was healthy—very much alive and well—when he left for Cardiff. "It was painful, very painful."

SPORTSWATCH

Tour heads to Alps

VAISON-LA-ROMAINE, France—Just as fans and rivals are getting used to his amazing feats in the mountains, Lance Armstrong wants to slow down. On Tuesday, the Tour de France was headed for the Alps, where the Texan took control of last year's race with memorable wins at L'Alpe d'Huez and Chamrousse. This time, he's on course to win the title–his fourth in a row–even before the Alps, and doesn't want to risk losing time by being unnecessarily aggressive there. "The smart thing to do is to ride conservative now," Armstrong said Sunday. *AP*

'Emblem' owner dies

AHMED

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia—Prince Ahmed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, owner of Kentucky Derby winner War Emblem and 2001 horse of the year Point Given, died Monday of a heart attack at age 43. Ahmed, a nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and also chairman of a publishing empire, died in the capital of Riyadh. The U.S.-educated Ahmed spent $900,000 to buy War Emblem just three weeks before the Kentucky Derby, after the horse won the Illinois Derby *AP*

Sports docs coming

RENOWNED sports psychologist Dr. Remco Polman and exercise physiologist Dr. Willy Pieter will be here in Manila to conduct a sports psychology and sports science symposium at the University of Asia and the Pacific on Aug. 3 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. For inquiries, call the National Athletic Training and Fitness Academy (NATFA) at 921-7224. The event is organized by the UA&P Sports Development Program-Office of Student Affairs and the NATFA.

CAGE TIPS
Batang Red Bull import Tony Lang (right) gives important tips to young basketball hopefuls when he guested Sunday at the opening of the Milo Best SBP/Passerelle tournament at the St. Benedict College courts in Alabang Hills. Lang, the PBA Best Import when the Thunder won the Commissioner's Cup title last year, also gave an inspirational talk and signed autographs.

ALL ALONE
Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen's Michael Yap pulls away from the rest of the pack en route to posting the fastest laptime of 1:41.733 in the second lap to rule the Formula Heavy class of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series sixth leg at the Batangas Racing Circuit. The event was sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, ZED, Nokia, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through Chair Livia "Honeygirl" de Leon.

SEA wrestling tilt gets going Aug. 7

MORE than 100 wrestlers from Southeast Asia will take part in the fourth Southeast Asian Wrestling Championship at the Badminton Hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Aug. 7.

Wrestlers representing the Southeast Asian Wrestling Federation (SEAWREF) countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines—are seeing action in the four-day event.

On tap in the championship sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority and Milo are nine weight categories in both Greco-Roman and Freestyle for men and seven weight classes in Freestyle for women.

The championship is a vital component of the preparation of our wrestlers who will compete in the Busan Asian Games in September and the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

Filipino wrestlers being honed by Mongolian Lodoi Enkhbayar, an Olympic fourth placer and Asian champion the past two years, are competing.

Wrestling returns to the SEA Games next year after an absence of eight years.

The last time wrestling was played in the SEA Games in Jakarta, Filipino wrestlers shared with the shooters the distinction of producing the most number of medals with 18 apiece.

With the Indonesia's inability to host the championship last year, WAP took up the cudgels with the sanction of International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (Fila) and SEAWREF.

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AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD with TV	✓	—	—	—
2-tone body colors	✓	—	✓	✓
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
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One-armed man, 74, makes second hole-in-one

CLOVIS, New Mexico—A 74-year-old one-armed man made his second hole-in-one at a New Mexico golf course last week.

Art Baird used a 5-iron to ace the par-3, 135-yard (meter) No. 7 hole last Thursday at the Municipal Golf Course in Clovis. Baird's first hole-in-one was in Apache Junction, Arizona, in 1991.

Baird lost his right arm in an accident in 1952, then started swinging a golf club to strengthen his left wrist.

He began playing golf in 1966 and learned how to bowl, play tennis and pool with one arm. He also is an avid fisherman. **AP**

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AGOJO

RP junior golfers win

By Jong Arcano

WITH the euphoria over Dottie Ardina's world junior golf's victory yet to subside, Carl Santos Ocampo and Jayvie Agojo kept Filipinos' summer campaign in the United States afire by topping their respective divisions in contrasting fashion in the Optimist International Junior Championships in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Ocampo, son of a prominent cardiologist whose family just migrated to nearby Naples, rallied from four shots down with an awesome 5-under-par 67 at the PGA national course to beat Colombian Juan Pablo Candela by two strokes for the boys' 14-15 years division participated in by 139 entries.

It was the second major victory in two months for Ocampo, who had earlier won the Florida State Junior Championship. He totaled 215 against the 217 by Candela.

Agojo also annexed another US title by bagging the girls' 14-15 years crown.

Fresh from pocketing a record third straight plum in the Temecula International, Agojo won the Optimist crown by a whopping 10 strokes over American Amber Davis.

Agojo had steady rounds of 71-74-73 for 218, easily besting Davis, who had 74-77-77.

Agojo's performance in Florida was a big turnaround from her world junior golf showing where she missed the cut.

Gerileen Handog likewise had a respectable finish of fifth out of 29 entries in the girls' 12-13 where she totaled 238. Magnum Bakunawa was at 25th out of 94 enrtries in the boys' 12-13 with his 231, while Johan Sy placed notches lower in the same division.

Glenn, Ernie rule Dumaguete 'moto'

GLENN Aguilar ruled the premier Pro Open category while Ernie Leongson dominated the Pro 125 class of the Superferry National Motocross Series 2002 fifth leg at the Perdices Coliseum, Capitol Area, in Dumaguete City last Sunday.

Aguilar, who sustained a back injury in the second leg which forced him out of the series' third and fourth stages, was a surprise entry in both the 125 and open classes.

But the Caltex-Revtex-KTM star rider bucked a hurting back and placed second in both the morning and afternoon races to top the Pro Open division with a 34-point total, a point ahead of Shell-Yamaha joint second placers Leongson and Jovie Saulog.

Leongson, whose streak in the Pro Open was halted by Aguilar, however, still topped the 125 class with 37 points.

Aside from the races, which were witnessed by a mammoth crowd, another highlight of the event was the donation of P180,000 by Hartebeest, represented by its chief operating officer Marilen Nunez, to the indigent patients of the Negros Oriental Drug Rehabilitation Center, a pet project of Gov. George Arnaiz.

"This donation will go a long way in our efforts to curb the menace of drugs in our province. We would like to thank Hartebeest and Richard Gomez, chairman of KIDS (Kabataang Iwas Droga sa Tulong ng Sports) Foundation for this very noble deed," said Gov. Arnaiz.

SPORTS ON TV

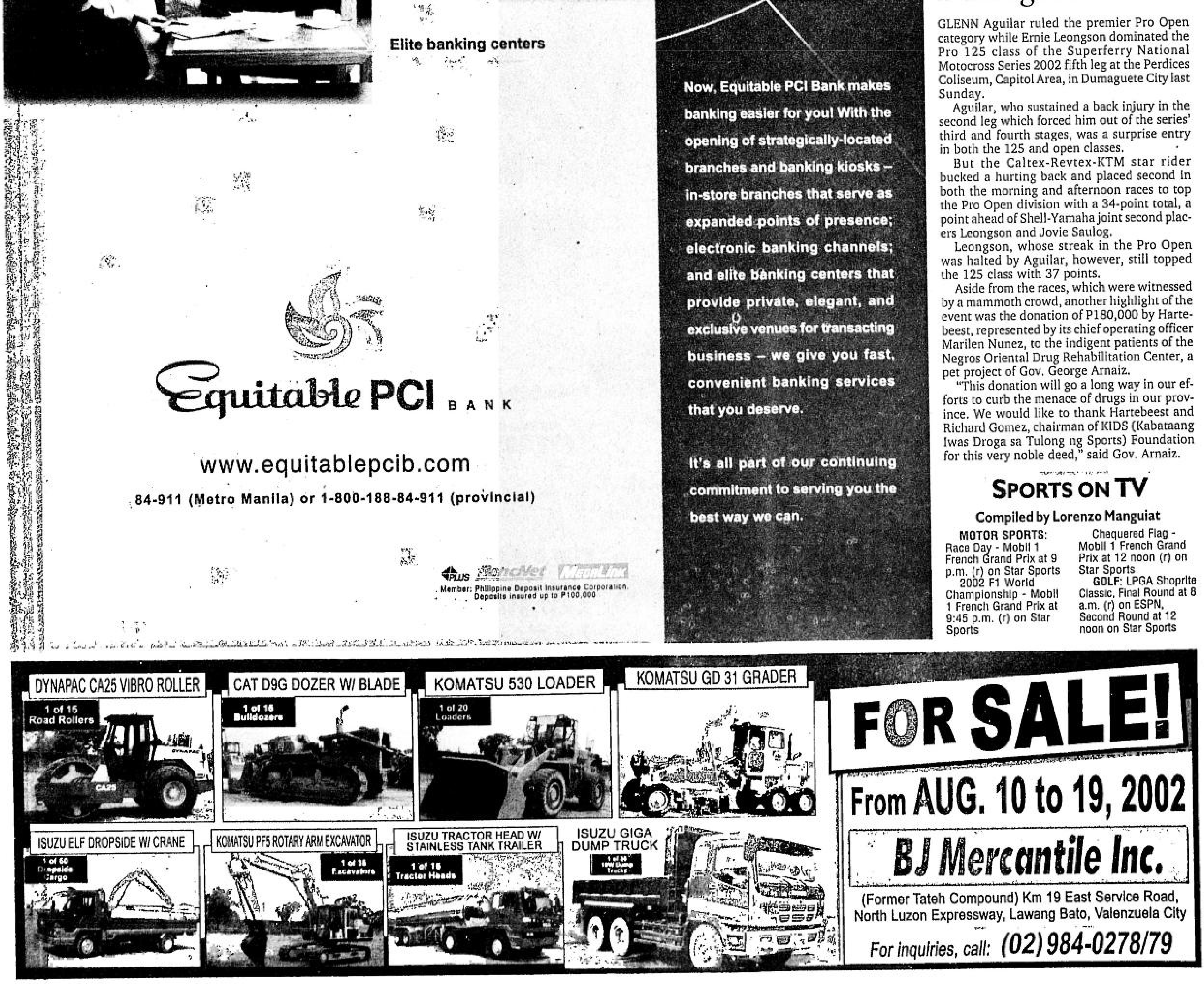
Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day - Mobil 1 French Grand Prix at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

2002 F1 World Championship - Mobil 1 French Grand Prix at 9:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chequered Flag - Mobil 1 French Grand Prix at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Shoprite Classic, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN, Second Round at 12 noon on Star Sports



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SPORTS

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TEARY HOMECOMING

I'll compete in Asiad–Django

By Roy Luarca

HE wanted to hug her, but couldn't. Francisco "Django" Bustamante had to be content touching the casket of his little angel, Mariel. He was silent but tears welled in his eyes as he finally caught sight of his daughter, dead at eight months and lying in state at the funeral parlor.

Bustamante arrived last night from Cardiff, Wales, where he did the country proud by placing second in the 2002 World Pool Championships. The feat earned him P1.5 million, but it wasn't enough to ease the pain of losing Mariel, whom he regards as his "lucky charm."

That he wasn't beside her when her fragile body gave way to an attack of *meningococcemia*, a disease which usually strikes infants and is characterized by the presence of the *meningococcic* bacteria in the bloodstream, compounded Bustamante's pent-up emotions.

For five days he tried to put the image of Mariel, whose picture is always in his wallet, as a rallying point as he played for flag and country. He used her memory as inspiration in the trying matches that demanded his full skill and concentration.

When he and fellow pool bets, Efren "Bata" Reyes, Antonio "Nikoy" Lining and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam, arrived at the Naia to the glare of camera lights last night, Bustamante was calm and composed.

"I'm well now. I'm quite happy and sad at the same time. I gave everything I've got for my daughter and for our country. She was always in my mind while I'm playing," said Bustamante, who headed straight to the Rizal Funeral Homes with his fellow cue masters.

"I'm grateful for the support that our countrymen gave me and my teammates in Cardiff," said Bustamante. "I don't want to disappoint them so I'll be willing to accept a slot in the Philippine team to the Asian Games. Provided, of course, that other players won't be displaced."

Bustamante gamely obliged as photographers and cameramen swarmed around him and Reyes. He felt comfortable in the company of friends and fans.

Upon reaching the funeral parlor in Libertad, however, his mood quickly turned somber. Reality struck him that Mariel is gone and only her ashes will keep him company in future tournaments. ***With reports from Roger Margallo and Jim Guiao Punzalan***

EFREN "Bata" Reyes (left) raises the arm of Francisco "Django" Bustamante upon their arrival yesterday. They headed straight to the wake of Bustamante's daughter. ROGER MARGALLO

MBA dribblers 5th

THE MBA selection settled for fifth place in the 25th Jones Cup following a pulsating 65-63 defeat to the Japan Basketball League All-Stars Monday night at the Taipei Physical Education College Gym. The Filipinos ended up with a 3-win, 4-loss record in the tournament won by Australia's Great Mates Team. ***Roy Luarca***

Batangas, Lhuillier eyeing PBL transfer

By Dennis U. Eroa

LEADING MBA teams LBC-Batangas and Cebuana-Lhuillier are planning to transfer to the PBL, a move which may spell doom for the country's second professional basketball league.

Elmer Yanga, representing RFM chief executive officer Joey Concepcion, made this disclosure yesterday in the weekly PSA Forum sponsored by Agfa Colors, Red Bull and Pioneer Insurance at the Holiday Inn.

Concepcion failed to attend the forum due to heavy traffic at the South Expressway.

Yanga explained that Santi Araneta, LBC-Batangas team owner, had already authorized Concepcion to talk with PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad regarding the possible entry of the Blades and the Gems this year to the PBL.

Araneta is also chair of the Multi Regional Board Inc, composed of MBA team owners and his move came as a surprise to observers.

Stags battle Dolphins

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—SSC vs PCU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs SBC (srs/jrs)

DEFENDING champion San Sebastian College sizes up Philippine Christian University today as they dispute solo second in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. ***JN***

Realtors rip Aces

STA. Lucia Realty overpowered Alaska down the stretch to score a lopsided 74-61 victory and move a win away from entering the quarterfinals last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Philsports Arena.

At the same time, the Realtors pounced on the Aces' lackluster plays and put premium on defense to notch their third straight win for a 4-2 record.

Paolo Mendoza's triple and a jumper in the final three minutes pushed the Realtors into the comfort zone, 68-55, allowing them to simply cruise the rest of the way.

STA. LUCIA 74—Howard 26, Clay 5, Aquino 10, Mendoza 9, Francisco 6, Rodriguez 4, Ortiguerra 2, Adriano 2, Victolero 0.

ALASKA 61—Carawell 20, Williams 18, Duat 14, Santos 3, Feihl 2, Arigo 2, Peek 2.

Quarters: 15-14, 38-37, 52-49, 74-61.

Vin goes to Celts

BOSTON—The Boston Celtics acquired forward Vin Baker from Seattle on Monday in a five-player deal that sent point guard Kenny Anderson to the SuperSonics.

The Celtics also received guard Shammond Williams and traded center Vitaly Potapenko and guard Joseph Forte to the Sonics. ***AP***

5 more Asian Games bets named

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE ASIAN Games Task Force accommodated five more athletes to Team Philippines competing in the Busan Games even as chief of mission Tom Carrasco announced that two more slots are allotted to the powerhouse billiards and snooker squad.

Equestrienne Michelle Barrera-Cojuangco, mountain biker Erick Feliciano, Fil-american swimmer Bayani Flores and two more sepak takraw players got the green light from the Task Force after passing the strict criteria.

Their inclusion increased the number of athletes to 169, according to Carrasco, with 19 more athletes from different sports hoping to make the list before next month's deadline.

Cojuangco joined Toni Leviste, who earlier qualified in equestrian, while Feliciano made the cut by virtue of his bronze medal performance in the recent Asian mountain bike championships held in Chinese Taipei. Flores passed after breaking the national breaststroke record.

HORSEMAN'S CUP

PCSO Chair Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" S. de Leon (second from left) awards the 2002 Horseman's Cup trophy to winning owner Hermie Esguerra following the surprise victory of his horse Magical Mark in last Sunday's 3rd leg of the Triple Crown series at the Santa Ana Park. De Leon was principal honoree of the P1.67-million race sponsored by the Philracom. Also shown (from left) are PRCI EVP and COO Ramon Ereñeta Jr., Philracom Chair Andrew Sanchez and Commissioner Jimmy Dilag.

San Beda, Letran lead Manila 3 on 3 q'fiers

SAN Beda College and Colegio de San Juan de Letran lead the 20 qualifiers to the Metro Manila leg of the Nike 3 on 3 on July 27 at the Glorietta Activity Center which will be transformed into Nike's Dr. Funk's Playground.

Joining the two schools are Pio del Pilar, St. Francis of Assisi Las Piñas, St. Francis-Manila, Don Bosco-Makati, St. Vincent, Notre Dame of Greater Manila, Colegio de San Agustin-Biñan, Trinity College, Don Bosco-Mandaluyong, Immaculate Mother Learning Center, Sto. Niño Parochial School, Philippine College of Criminology, Phil. Science High School and Colegio de San Agustin-Makati.

These 16 schools, which topped their respective groups out of a 65-school cast that showed up in the elimination round at the Xavier School Gym in San Juan last Saturday, will be joined by the second placers who clinched the remaining four sports to the MM leg, namely PWU-JASMS, St. Francis of Assisi-Bacoor, International Christian School and Xavier University.

"Come in your favorite Nike gear and get a chance to win prizes at the side events," said Nike sports marketing manager Auty Villarama.

Major sponsor of the Nike 3 on 3—the longest-running and most prestigious high school basketball tournament of its kind—is High endurance by Old Spice. Participating sponsors are Gatorade, Absolute Drinking Water, Ayala Center, Toby's, Olympic Village, Olympic World, Royal Sporting House and SM Department Stores.

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■ 'Cops can't be punished with far assignments' /A26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Bare Eye: 'It's the hardest game in the world /A26

ALL WRAPPED UP
Schoolboys enjoy a rapt moment as they do their version of a rap number called "S2pid," popularized by the group Salbakuta, in a show at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park.
DENNIS SABANGAN

NBI: 2 new witnesses in Nida Blanca case

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has two witnesses who said Philip Medel was at the Atlanta Centre on the morning of Nov. 7, two hours after actress Nida Blanca was found dead in the building's car park.

NBI spokesperson Ricardo Diaz yesterday said the chief of security of Atlanta Centre claimed to have seen Medel at the building's lobby about 11 a.m. that day last year.

The manager of the Quezon City apartment that Medel was renting at that time also said the suspect was not in his room the whole day of Nov. 7, Diaz said.

The lawyers of Rod Lauren Strunk, Blanca's American husband who is a principal suspect in her murder, will ask the Department of Justice to disregard Medel's confession and dump the charges against their client, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

Strunk's lawyers also urged the DOJ panel investigating the case not to issue a subpoena for Strunk while the panel is still trying to resolve their motion to dismiss the charges against the American.

DOJ sources said lawyers from the Siguion-Reyna, Montecillo, and Ongsiako law firm are set to file their omnibus motion later this week. The motion was signed by lawyers Noel Lazaro, Dennis Manalo and Alma Fernandez-Mallonga on Monday. The INQUIRER was shown a copy of it yesterday.

But Diaz said Strunk's lawyers should file a counter-affidavit and answer the charges against their client instead of simply asking the DOJ to dismiss the charges against him. Strunk's lawyers focused their efforts on discrediting Medel's confession.

Medel made the confession while he was still in the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detention Group last year. He would later retract it dramatically during the DOJ hearing.

"Recanted extra-judicial confessions cannot be relied upon to prove the complicity of another person, much less establish his guilt in a murder case," the lawyers said.

They noted that the DOJ upheld Medel's recantation on Nov. 26 last year.

"His recantation assumed a much more powerful force than any other

NBI: 2 WITNESSES/ A26

DILG rules in Isko's favor

By Jerome Aning

AS THE acting vice mayor of Manila, Councilor Isko Moreno can call for a session of the city council but only for the election of the temporary presiding officer.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government issued this opinion, thus settling the feud between Moreno and the council majority on whether the councilor from the fourth district could act as vice mayor and presiding officer at the same time.

In a three-page opinion dated July 17 but issued only last Monday, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina ruled that a temporary vacancy in the office of the vice mayor "necessitates the election among the (councilors) as to who shall act as the temporary presiding officer."

Lina, citing two Supreme Court decisions, said that Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna's vacation leave "constituted an inability" to preside over a session.

But Lina said it was still Moreno's duty, as the highest-ranking councilor (in terms of votes won in relation to the number of votes cast) and as acting vice mayor, "to convene and call for the resumption of session and thereafter facilitate the election of a temporary presiding officer."

Moreno claimed he was both acting vice mayor and presiding officer, but the majority ignored his three calls for a session on July 4, 9 and 16.

The majority councilors led by Marlon Lacson aired their non-recognition of Moreno when the council resumed on July 18.

The DILG chief rejected this argument. He said the internal rule applies only when there is no temporary vacancy in the office of the vice mayor and the latter is merely absent or indisposed.

Lina also invalidated the controversial 20-day "continuing recess" called

DILG RULES/ A26

Gov't delivering on promises to Payatas kids, says DSWD

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday assured the public that it is delivering on its promises to the Payatas victims, particularly the three boys President Macapagal-Arroyo had invited to her first State of the Nation Address last year.

In a letter, the Department of Social Welfare and Development said six children from Payatas in Quezon City—including Jayson Vann Banogan, 11, Jomer Pabalan, 10, Erwin Dolera, 9—each received P16,000 in scholarship grant.

The three boys came to symbolize poverty in the country after the President presented them to the public during her 2001 Sona.

The six children's families also were each given P10,000 as seed capital for their livelihood, according to Ruel Lucentales, DSWD assistant secretary.

Lucentales said 400 other children from Payatas each got P10,000 in annual educational assistance which began last school year.

In reply to victims' request for livelihood assistance, the DSWD official said the government shelled out a total of P1.2 million, which benefited 400 families. The amount was released to the Samahang Tunay, Sankap, and the July 10 Payatas Victims Organization, Lucentales added.

The DSWD and non-government organizations are coordinating with key government agencies and local governments to grant the Payatas residents' request for low-cost housing and justice for more than 300 people killed in the tragedy.

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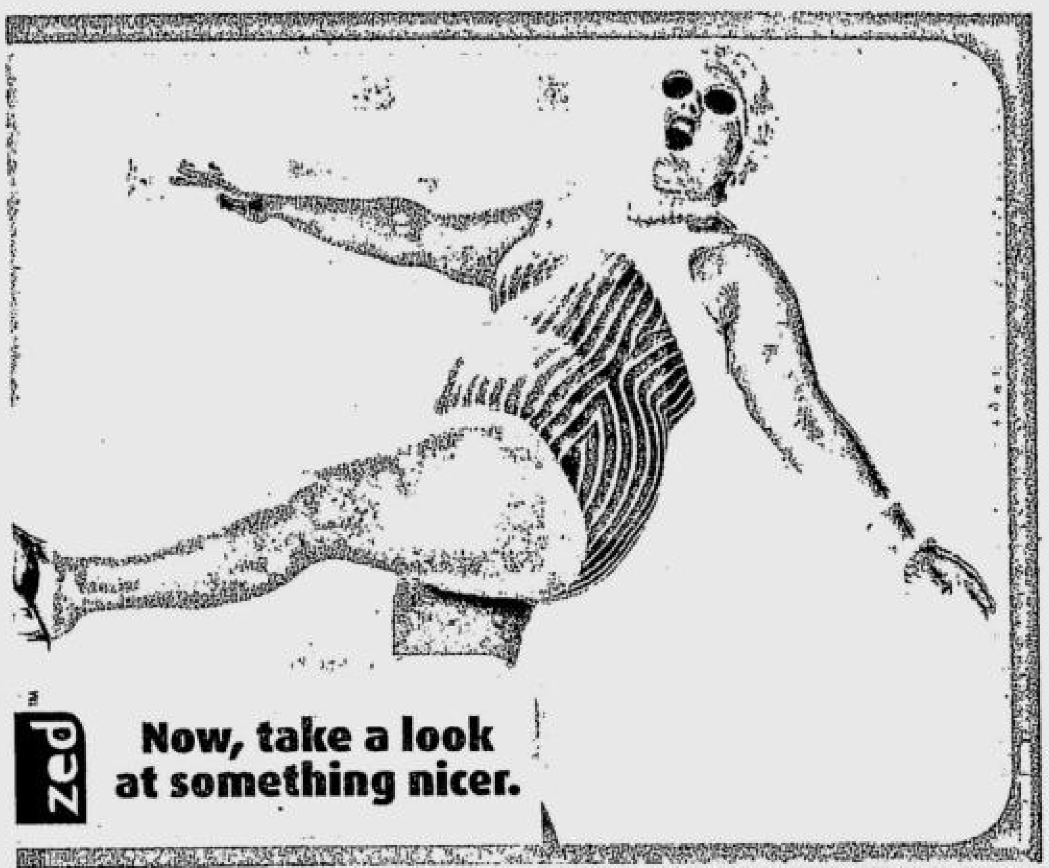

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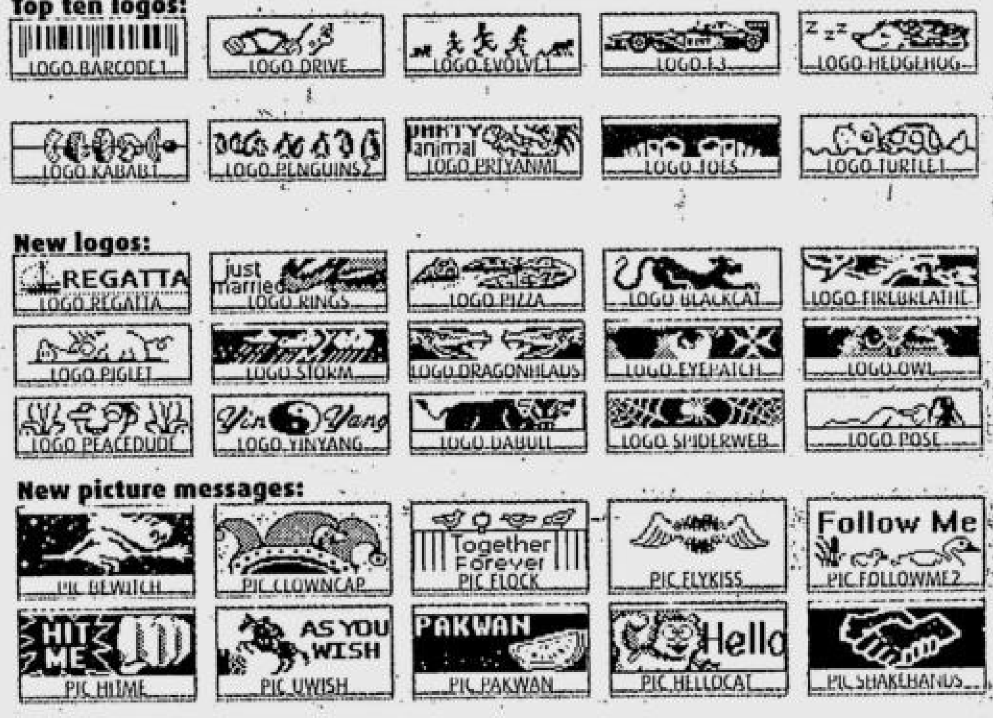

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Trouble	*Elvis Presley; Travis Tritt*	**TONE TROUBLE**
I Wanna Love You Forever	*Jessica Simpson*	**TONE LUVU4EVER**
Tutti-Frutti	*Little Richard*	**TONE TUTTIFRUTTI**
You Sang To Me	*Marc Anthony*	**TONE USANG2ME**
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Build Me Up, Buttercup	*Sound Alike*	**TONE BUTTERCUP**
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Heaven By Your Side	*A1*	**TONE HEAVENBY**
Kahit Kailan	*South Border*	**TONE KAHITKLAN**
Ain't It Funny	*Jennifer Lopez*	**TONE AINTITFUN**
Saranggola Ni Pepe	*Celeste Legaspi*	**TONE SARANGGOLA**
Farewell To You My Friends	*Raymond Lauchengco*	**TONE FAREWELL**
Tell Me	*Side A*	**TONE TELLME**
Leron Leron Sinta		**TONE LERON**
So Many Questions	*Side A*	**TONE SOMANY**

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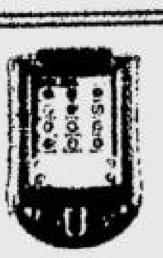

Palm m100.jpg

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'Cops can't be punished with far assignments'

By Leila B. Salaverria

POLICE officers with the rank of PO1 to SPO4 cannot be transferred to far-flung places as a punishment for petty offenses, according to the National Police Commission.

Napolcom memorandum circular No. 2002-007 states that police officers should be assigned to the city or municipality where they reside or were recruited. Should they be reassigned, it must be to a place within their district or province, or to another province within the region, the circular says.

The circular was passed during an en banc meeting on July 20. It clarified the concepts of reassignment, transfer and relief of PNP personnel.

Napolcom Vice Chair Rogelio Pureza said the relief, transfer or reassignment of policemen could be implemented at the commander's discretion, but it must not be abused and must only be invoked when absolutely necessary.

"The gauge should be the ability to perform one's assigned duties and responsibilities," Pureza said. "Infractions such as improper uniform or smudged shoes do not necessarily affect one's ability to get things done and should be dealt with in other ways."

Earlier, several police officers from the Western Police District protested that they were being arbitrarily reassigned to provincial posts for being absent or late for assemblies, or for wearing improper uniform during roll call. They said their offenses were just minor and should not have merited such an action from their superiors.

Pureza said the transfer, reassignment or relief should not be used as a disciplinary action.

"(It) is not a disciplinary action, which would require prior investigation and observance of due process, but simply a tactical/strategic movement, deployment, placement or utilization of the PNP or any of its units and personnel," he said.

The practice of assigning a PNP member in his area of residence is based on the premise that he would be unlikely to commit illegal acts such as extortion for fear of besmirching his family's reputation, according to the circular.

A police officer assigned to his place of residence is also more familiar with the culture and the people of the locality and would also be near his family.

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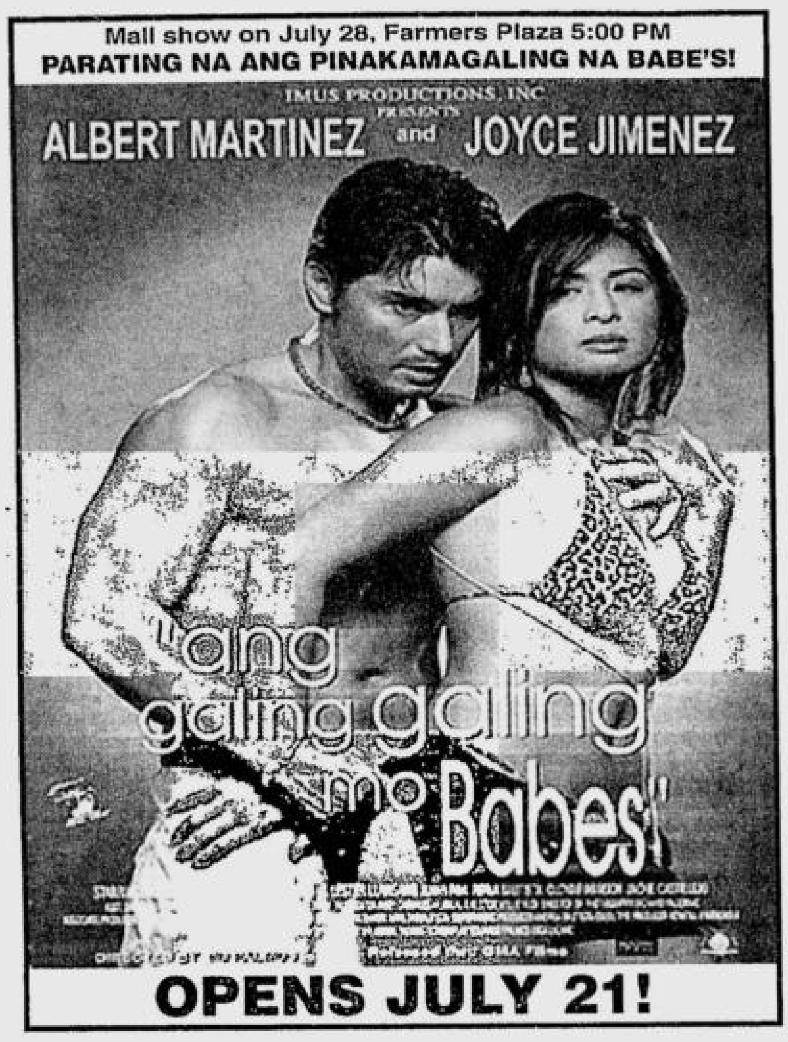
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OPENS JULY 21!

Concert producers ordered arrested in P200M case

THE MAKATI Regional Trial Court yesterday issued warrants of arrest for several entertainment producers for failing to appear during their arraignment in a P200-million estafa case filed against them by William Tieng, president of Solar Team Entertainment Inc. (STEI).

The court also gave the respondents seven days to file their motion for reconsideration pending the implementation of the arrest warrants.

Tieng's lawyer Rex Rico said Judge Cesar Santamaria of Makati RTC Branch 145 issued bench warrants for Felix Co, president of Team Image Entertainment (TIE), Jeffrey Cal, Jerry Cal, Laura Cal and Manuel Maglague. Co is also an executive of Maxi-Media Entertainment, a producer of concerts and albums for the likes of Regine Velasquez and Martin Nievera.

Rico explained that a bench warrant means that once the respondents are arrested, they will not be allowed to post bail. He said the judge ordered the confiscation of the bail they had earlier posted and issued the warrants because the respondents did not give any valid reason for their failure to appear in court.

But Team Image lawyer Froi Cabaltera said Judge Santamaria withdrew the warrants he issued yesterday and suspended them for seven days.

Cabaltera said he would file a motion for reconsideration today in behalf of Team Image.

Cabaltera said Solar Entertainment had filed a similar case against Team Image in 1997. But Tieng filed an affidavit of desistance and admitted under oath there were communication problems between him and Co, the lawyer said. The judge dismissed the case, Cabaltera said.

Co himself described the new case as "pure harassment."

"This is purely a business miscommunication and misunderstanding," he added.

Tieng had sued the respondents after the latter failed to remit to Solar P227,961,638.87 in payments for TV spots sold on STEI's TV properties such as telenovelas, programs, specials and movies aired on RPN-9.

Tieng had earlier withdrawn the case against Co after the latter promised to pay him, but Co allegedly did not keep his word, Tieng said. *Leila B. Salaverria, Leah Salterio*

Police investigating death of 'healthy' woman in QC

POLICEMEN are closely looking into the death of a 44-year-old woman in Quezon City to determine if foul play was involved.

The death of Daditha Delia Gonzales, of North Fairview, Quezon City, last July 18 was reported to police only yesterday, according to SPO4 Rafael de Peralta.

SPO4 Resty de Leon said the body of Gonzales was discovered about 1 p.m. that day in the room she shared with her husband Jonathan.

The death was reported to police by a friend and neighbor, Rogelio Lagdameo.

Lagdameo was said to have been surprised when he found out that the death had not been reported to police even when preparations for the wake and burial were already being made.

Police said that according to Lagdameo, the death of Gonzales was puzzling since he never heard of her being sick. "The last time I saw her, she was healthy," he told police.

NBI: 2 new witnesses in Nida Blanca case

From page A25

conceivable symbolic formality," they said. "It was made in the most public or vehement terms captured by extensive media coverage."

They alleged that Medel's affidavit was done after he was tortured. Medel also admitted to riddling it with falsehoods, they added.

"There is neither rhyme nor reason in utilizing the same discredited affidavit to file a supposedly new joint complaint against Strunk," the lawyers said.

They noted that Medel's affidavit was "central to, and indeed the only basis" for the new case against Strunk, Medel, and the six other respondents.

In their motion, the lawyers also hinted of the defense they would set up for their client.

"It taxes one's credulity to suppose that Strunk would kill his spouse, without whom he would not have wherewithal to support his profligate ways as authorities would paint his lifestyle," they said.

The NBI in its complaint had described Strunk as "irresponsible, extremely lazy, extravagant, and very fond of drinking." He also was "entirely dependent" on Blanca for his financial needs, it said.

But Strunk's lawyers said that "assuming (that the charges are true), they do not afford a conclusive inference that (Strunk) would kill his benefactor."

The NBI has urged Strunk to return to the country and face the charges against him.

The NBI has yet to identify the "lesbian-looking" Jean Doe it mentioned in its complaint due to lack of evidence.

NBI sources said that Medel was shown a picture of Blanca's friend Candelaria Tantoco while he was still detained at the CIDG.

Medel was asked if he knew the woman in the picture but he said he did not, said the NBI sources.

In his confession, Medel had said that missing businessman Mike Martinez, another suspect, told him that a certain "Tantoco needs our participation."

At the end of October, Medel again talked to Martinez about the "Tantoco project" in the house of a certain Sally Tan.

Medel had said in his affidavit that Strunk arrived with Blanca and a "tomboyish-looking woman" at the Atlanta Centre Building on the morning of Nov. 7, hours before the actress was found dead.

OPENS JULY 31 !
KUNG MAY FEELINGS KA...
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'It's the hardest game in the world'

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

POOL is the hardest game in the world, Earl Strickland swore proudly on cable television shortly before dawn on Monday.

He had struggled and crawled from behind to grab victory from Francisco Bustamante of the Philippines in the final of the World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales.

Strickland knew whereof he spoke. But that statement, which punctuated what could be the greatest finish in the history of the world championship, should have aptly come from Bustamante himself.

In fact, it should not stun her critics if President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo dropped by the Rizal Funeral Parlor in Pasay to condole with Bustamante, fondly called Django hereabouts.

Bustamante, who made the President and countless Filipinos very proud with his sensational silver-medal finish in the World Pool Championship, deserves heartfelt sympathy and congratulations.

* * *

OK, the President has yet to walk deep into the sick intestines of our slums to see and feel the sub-human immensity of poverty in the country.

She has to step into the dark, airless cages our luckless countrymen try to call home in order to have a full grasp of this beast they call poverty.

Poverty RP-style is an unforgiving, all-consuming enemy that defies description.

It cannot be measured by mere statistics and surface definitions.

But, in Django's case, the President need not be told how the pool hero endured the deepest stab of tragedy to stay out in the battlefield in England while his youngest daughter, who had succumbed to meningitis, lay in a coffin back home.

* * *

Bustamante was visibly bleeding inside as he worked his way to the final showdown with Strickland.

But other than the perpetual grimness in his luminous face, Django ably concealed the hurt with his masterful performance that drew raves from the live crowd and television audiences all over the world.

He dedicated his performance to his dead child.

Well, pool could indeed be the hardest game.

Ironically, both Strickland and Bustamante had succeeded in making the event appear sweetly enjoyable with their cool control of the colored balls on the table.

There were points when their game, except in the wild, ear-splitting breaks, would almost be godly in their precision.

For most of the duel, actually a keen, wordless debate, Strickland had appeared the more tragic of the two combatants as he continued to trail despite working very hard.

The finalists did swap at least two miscues each. But, in the end, what decided it all was an all-out break by Bustamante which nearly cracked the cue ball and sent it stalling before rolling dazed into the right corner pocket for a foul.

Bustamante was ahead 15-13, but Strickland, who had won the world championship in 1990 and 1991, racked four straight wins to clinch the crown.

* * *

His record third straight conquest complete, Strickland leapt onto the table and yelled, thumping his breast, in triumph.

But the crowd, maybe still wondering how and where Bustamante dug the fortitude to stay in battle despite deep pain, gave the Filipino hero the bigger hand.

Grief and excellence were perfected into a heroic mix as Django showed the world what a great Pinoy is all about.

He missed claiming the crown, and had to settle for the silver medal, but in that shining moment, Django, for once, did not have to live in the shadows of Efren "Bata" Reyes, whom he had outsteadied in two rounds earlier.

At least, our sports authorities did not wait for the tournament to end before announcing that a slot has been re-opened for Bustamante to be part of the RP Asian Games contingent.

* * *

Well, the prospect of the Asian Games to be covered by a local channel has improved with the participation of the calibered RP pool team that will now include Bustamante and the likes of Bata Reyes, Lee Van Corteza, Warren Kiamco and Antonio Lining, who also made waves in Cardiff.

Things indeed don't look very promising for the national basketball squad that continued to be hobbled by injuries and setbacks these past weeks.

But, with Django & Co. out to carry the national colors in the Asiad, sponsors should find it nice and easy to jump into the coverage bandwagon currently being mounted by the National Broadcasting Network (NBN-4).

Meanwhile, before he rushed home to finally be with his dead child, Django Bustamante vowed to return to Cardiff next year in his continuing quest for the elusive world crown.

The hardest game in the world should be a bit easier by then.

DILG rules in Isko's favor

From page A25

by the majority councilors starting June 27, the day before Moreno took over as acting vice mayor.

"The agreement of the (councilors) declaring a recess until July 18, 2002 has no legal and binding effect although it has been approved and adopted by the majority," Lina ruled.

In a press statement, majority floor leader Lacson said Lina's decision "vindicates" the majority's position on the controversy.

"This should help put the issue to rest," he said. "We hope Councilor Moreno would be guided by the clarifications made in this legal opinion."

Lacson added that the squabble would become moot and academic with Lacuna's return today.

In a phone interview, Moreno said the DILG decision was "greatly favorable" to him. He sought the DILG opinion on July 5.

"I was only doing my duty (as acting vice mayor and presiding officer)," he said.

The actor-turned-politician said he is "glad the DILG listened to my reiteration that the law, and not the mere rule of the majority, must prevail at all times."

The DILG opinion reportedly caused consternation among the majority councilors during the yesterday's session, which was abruptly adjourned due to a brownout.

Moreno said: "If they really felt vindicated, why were they [illegible]

BIG STAR. Judy Ann Santos says she loves her job.

Judy is the new Nora, Vilma, Sharon and Maricel

DIRECTOR **Boots Plata** cannot help but compare young actress **Judy Ann Santos** to some of the superstars in show biz today.

Direk Boots notes Judy Ann's public charisma has always been compared with **Sharon Cuneta**'s. The megastar always talks about Judy Ann with fondness since they worked together in the huge hit, **Joel Lamangan**'s "Magkapatid."

Direk Boots also likens the excitement over Judy Ann's on-and-off screen personality with that generated by the original superstar, **Nora Aunor**'s.

Juday's intensity and professionalism are comparable to **Maricel Soriano**'s, he says.

The director further observes that Juday's strong sense of responsibility toward her family is similar to the kind that **Vilma Santos** has shown all these years.

"Consciously or unconsciously, Judy Ann has patterned her life and career after those superstars," says *Direk* Boots, who is Juday's long-time mentor. "Deep inside her, Judy Ann knows that for her to become successful and stay long in this business, she has to have the qualities of the actresses she idolizes.

"I saw in her (Judy Ann) the factors which propelled the other female stars to superstardom," says *Direk* Boots who works with Juday in her newest movie, Regal Films' "Pakisabi na Lang . . . Mahal Ko Siya."

Judy Ann, however, remains modest.

"Compared to them, I still have a lot to prove and achieve, and I'm aware of that," she says. "If there's really something that we have in common, it's our love for our job."

In "Pakisabi Na Lang," Judy Ann did not have qualms working with young actor **Cogie Domingo**. She plays a schoolmarm with whom high school student Cogie falls madly in love. **KC Montero** and **Alessandra de Rossi** complete the cast.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Back with a vengeance

THANKS to the seemingly endless controversy hounding her, **Alma Moreno** became the toast of the box-office with the success of her comeback movie, **Mel Chionglo**'s "Kapalit?"

The movie is the initial offering of director Joel Lamangan's Jaggs Entertainment.

Alma plays a woman cheated and humiliated by her husband but loved by a man she meets under heartbreaking circumstances.

Alma feels "Kapalit?," with script written by **Roy Iglesias**, came at the right time, just when she has undergone trials and sufferings as wife, mother and daughter. Her wealth of experiences, both sad and happy, apparently helped her in giving life to the difficult role.

Alma was overwhelmed with the support not just of her producers but also by her costars—**Boots Anson-Roa, Jay Manalo, Victor Neri** and **Michelle Quizon**.

Although she was built up as a sex goddess, Alma has had her share of serious roles in films like **Ishmael Bernal**'s "Ligaw na Bulaklak" (her launching picture) and "City After Dark," **Romy Suzara**'s "Laruang Apoy" and "Mga Bilanggong Birhen," and **Peque Gallaga**'s "Abandonada."

Asked if she's hoping to get an award for "Kapalit?," Alma said she's happy with the box-office outcome of her comeback film.

Weekend at Dish

AFTER its two-night anniversary bash last week, Dish continues to serve premium entertainment.

The popular night haunt on the 3rd level of Rockwell's Powerplant Mall has special nights this weekend.

Side A band and L.O.C. rock the place on Thursday.

American pop artist **Jennifer Paige** will do a six-song show on Friday, 8 p.m., to be followed by South Border and Pido With Take One.

On Saturday, it will be the turn of the Rage Band and Barbie's Cradle which will sing music from the '80s to the present.

Mel's mom

CONDOLENCE to director Mel Chionglo whose mother, **Dominga Tan Chionglo**, passed away Sunday night after a lingering illness. She was 93.

The wake is at Funeraria Paz along Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Interment will be in Lucena City.

Bar tour

FRANCO Laurel will do a bar tour to promote his album from Viva Records. He will perform on July 26 at Ratsky's Morato, Aug. 1 at Blue Onion in Eastwood City and Aug. 3 at Hard Rock Makati. Show time is 9:30 p.m.

MORENO

Lisa Macuja in 'Coffee Talk'

THIS week in "Coffee Talk," host Cheri Mercado visits prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde to find out how the latter leaps from one role to another—wife to Fred, mommy to Missy and Mac, artistic director of Ballet Manila and more recently, a university sophomore—without losing her balance.

Chiropractor Dr. Martin Camara likes to joke about his medical practice as being a "high-tech *manghihilot*."

Camara tells Cheri more about why his alternative therapy is gaining steady ground among health conscious individuals who want their remedies the natural way.

"Coffee Talk" airs 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays on the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC).

Innovative TV shows

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

THERE'S a promising show about to start telecasting on the Show World channel every Sunday at 7 p.m. The new program, "Futurama," is an animated series set in the next millennium.

It follows the exploits of Fry, a pizza delivery boy who was cryogenically frozen by accident for 1,000 years. Other lead characters are Leela, a female Cyclops, and Bender, an immoral robot. They work for an intergalactic delivery service owned by Fry's great, great, great-nephew, Professor Farnsworth.

What makes "Futurama" particularly promising is the fact that it is the second foray into primetime TV animation of **Matt Groening**, the artist-producer behind the enormously popular and acclaimed "The Simpsons." With luck, "Futurama" will turn out to be another winner.

While you're on Star World, also look out for "Who's Line Is It Anyway?" It's telecast every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., and every Thursday at midnight, 3 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

The program is unique because it showcases totally improvisational (unscripted and spontaneous) comedy from today's most popular performers and some new stand-up talents.

Host **Drew Carey** sets the scene for four talented comedians, who rely on their quick wit and improvisional skills to keep the audience in a constant state of amazement and mirth. Very few comedians can do improv successfully, and it looks like most of them have been discovered by this show.

Star World is also the home of these popular programs:

"Everybody Loves Raymond," Mondays at 8:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 3:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Stand-up comedian **Ray Romano** plays Ray Barone, a successful sportswriter who has to put up with his meedlesome in-laws and brother Robert, a divorced policeman.

"Dharma & Greg," Mondays at 9 p.m., and Tuesdays at 3 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. **Jenna Elfman** plays a free-spirited yoga instructor and **Thomas Gibson** is a conservative, Harvard-educated attorney. Married after their very first date, they have remained committed to each other despite the many obstacles they've had to overcome.

"Boston Public," Mondays at 10 a.m. If you thought being a student was hard, try being a teacher! After reinventing the legal drama genre with "Ally McBeal" and "The Practice," **David E. Kelley** now works his magic on a high school in Boston.

With the prolific producer's penchant for controversial topics, "Boston Public" will have viewers wishing they were back in school—or being thankful that they're not!

"The Pretender," Tuesdays at 9 p.m. This one-hour suspense series centers on Jarod, a genius whose exceptional intelligence enables him to master virtually every profession.

Taken from his parents as a child prodigy in the early '60s, Jarod spent decades isolated under the caring instruction of a psychiatrict at a think-tank that has sold the services of Jarod's computer-like mind to the highest bidder.

As an adult, Jarod flees the think-tank and seeks emotional retribution for disenfranchised or powerless individuals by turning the tables on those who abuse their privileges and seem to be beyond the reach of the law.

Feedback

FROM **Emmanuel S. Espino** of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija: "I would like to thank the Lifestyle Network for screening 'Malena' last July 7. This film was shown only at ArtFilm in Glorietta. It has a very good cast, especially its young lead actor and beautiful actress. The script is well-written and reminds me of **Lino Brocka**'s 'Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang.'

"It's good to have a cable channel that showcases quality films. HBO, Cinemax and Star generally have room only for huge box-office hits. I hope that, in the coming months, Lifestyle will feature other intelligent films. Thanks too to Sky Films for bringing quality movies to the Philippines.

"Filipino producers should conceptualize fresh film stories that will encourage Filipino moviegoers to fully support local productions. We should have our own acting school, and a deep understanding of Philippine culture and history.

"Other Asian countries like China are successful in making movies that promote their cultures. We can also have a rich film culture if we have more responsible and innovative filmmaker.

"Does strict censorship mean that there's no real democracy in our country? They say that cinema is an expression of one's freedom . . ."

Deocampo to judge in two int'l filmfests

DEOCAMPO

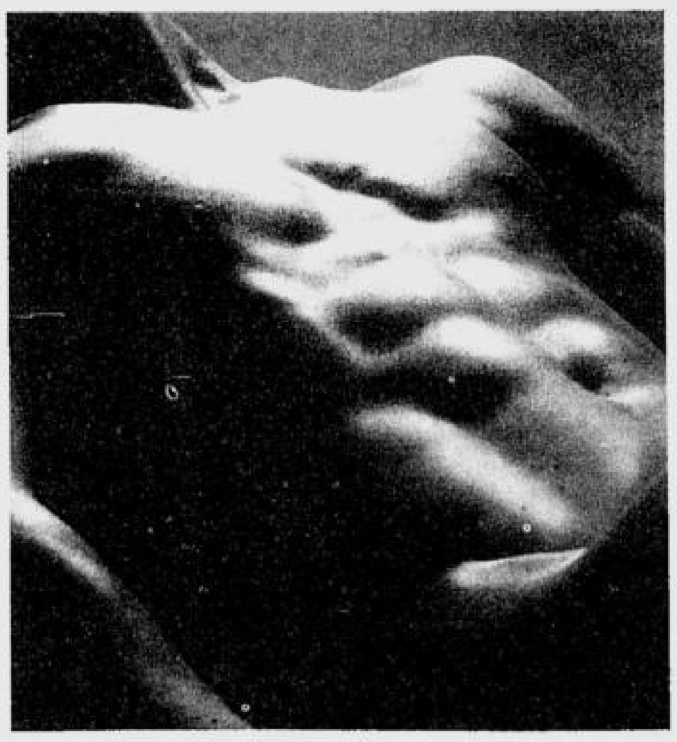
FILMMAKER Nick Deocampo has been invited to be in the jury of two international film festivals to be held in Australia and India.

Deocampo will be a member of the Netpac Asian film juries in the Brisbane International Film Festival and Cinefan Film Festival in New Delhi. He will be joined by Thailand's renowned director Noonze Nimibutir.

The Netpac prize is given to Asia's outstanding films.

Deocampo remains the country's most sought-after film personality to sit as jury member in international film competitions. Internationally recognized for his films and respected for his academic accomplishments, Deocampo has graced a growing list of festivals where he did jury duty like in Berlin, New York, Hawaii, Rotterdam (Netherlands), Bilbao (Spain), Oberhausen (Germany), Yamagata (Japan), Pusan (South Korea) and Singapore.

After his jury duty in New Delhi, Deocampo proceeds to Bangkok to undertake the retrieval of two Filipino films long considered lost in the country—Gerry de Leon's "Dyesebel" starring Edna Luna and the first "Darna" movie with Rosa del Rosario.



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UP Film Center screens 'Utang ni Tatang'

THE UP Film Center and Pulang Sumbrero Films present "Utang ni Tatang," the director's cut.

Written and directed by indie filmmaker Jon Red and produced by World Arts Cinema, the experimental movie is a dark comedy about a gang getting back together to collect a debt from their former boss. After 10 years, is it worth it?

Red's initial venture into the mainstream stars Joel Torre, Jeffrey Quizon, Ronnie Lazaro, Maricar de Mesa, Tado and Jaime Fabregas.

Special screenings are scheduled on Tuesday, July 30, 4 and 7 p.m. at the UP Film Center in Diliman, Quezon City.

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HIGH CRIMES
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REMAR-2	SUGAT
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A	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
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CINEMA-2	KAPALIT
CINEMA-3	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
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CINEMA-7	CASS & CARY
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CINEMA-14	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-15	MINORITY REPORT
LORES	
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CINEMA-3	CLOSED
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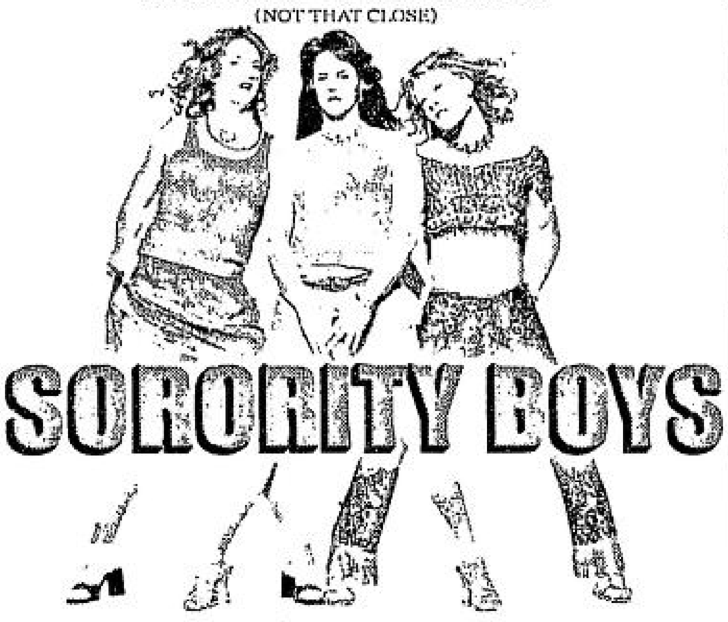

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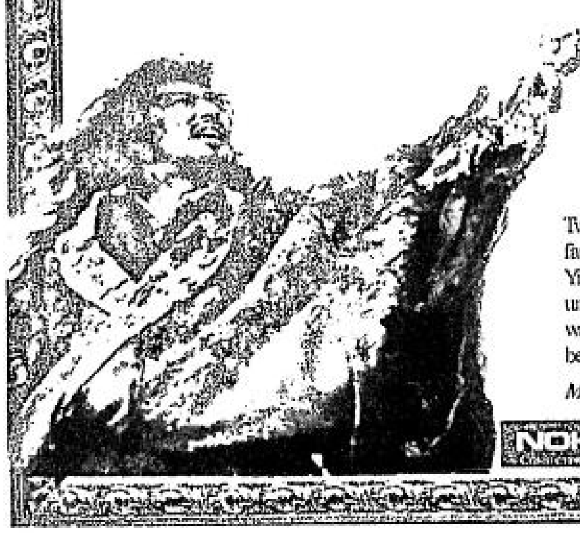

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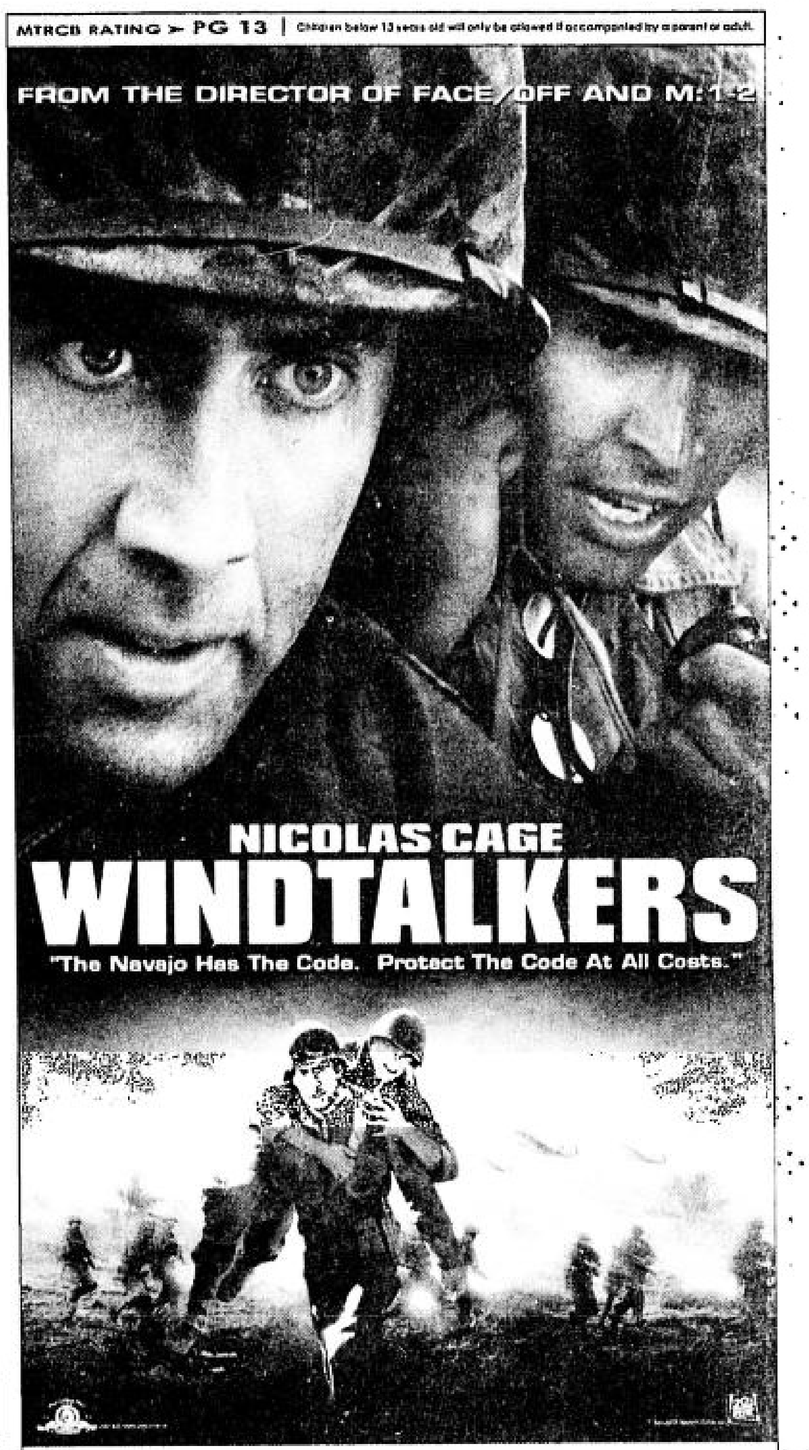

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Onemig launches youth foundation

BONDOC. Commitment to the youth.

ACTOR Onemig Bondoc, the official youth spokesperson of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, recently launched his "United as One" (Uno) foundation which will showcase the character, conviction and commitment of the youth to make a difference in the new millenium.

Uno is committed to safeguard the environment, preserve the sanctity of the family values and promote the values of education.

The "United as One" launch youth festival also promoted brotherhood and unity via a fashion show that featured the creations of formal wear by designers Ramon Favila and Eddie Castro. Casual wear was promoted by Dickies. Tom Molina directed the fashion show.

Youth leaders and best friends of Onemig Bondoc served as models and frontliners.

Malacañang youth spokesperson Jolina Magdangal also graced the occasion.

Both Jolina and Onemig received medals of leadership from the Kasama (Kabataang Sama-Samang Maglilingkod) president Rey Talosig and founding chair Gerald Ortiz, last June 30 at the Skyline Hotel and Convention Center in Riverbank, Marikina City.

Sen. Francisco "Kit" Tatad delivered an inspirational message.

BONDOC FAMILY. Onemig with sister Joan, dad Mariano, mom Miladel, sister Jenny and brother Jose.

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Budget deficit swells to ₱119.7B

INDICATORS

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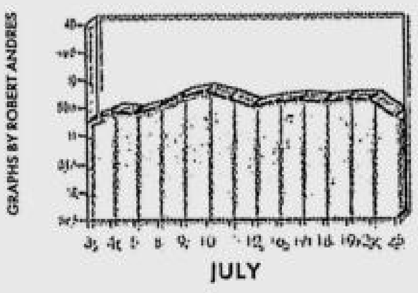
PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.66 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 23, 2002

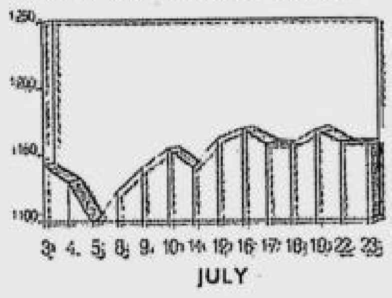
¥117.41 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 23, 2002

GOLD: $320.40/320.90
per ounce Hong Kong, July 23, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Local stocks end flat despite Wall St. fall

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

SHARES ended little changed yesterday with some light buying interest in selected blue chips offsetting the negative impact of another sharp slide on Wall Street overnight, traders said.

The Dow Jones index plunged nearly 3 percent yesterday and is now trading at its lowest levels since October 1998 as investors, spooked by a spate of gloomy corporate news, continued to flee to safe-haven alternatives.

Many Asian markets have followed suit with investors worried that a slow US corporate recovery would dent their own economic prospects.

The Philippine market was, however, slightly resilient. But poor budget deficit data announced after the market had closed raised fears of a sell-off today.

"We did not respond as badly as Wall Street but the market is still trending down, investors are staying on the sidelines and are not likely to return until they see something resembling a bottom in the US market," DA Market Securities Inc. chair Nestor Aguila said.

The main index closed up 0.18 points, or 0.02 percent, at 1,158.05 points.

Turnover rose to P347.48 million from P195.31 million on Monday.

BPI Investment Management Inc. head Jo Ann Eala noted that light interest in several key large-caps was largely responsible for shoring the market up.

"If it weren't for SM Prime and a few other index-heavy issues we would have been down," she said.

SM Prime Holdings, the country's biggest mall developer, closed up 10 centavos at P5.80 on top turnover of P74.99 million after announcing its first half net income grew 10 percent from a year ago, in line with market estimates.

Reuters

By Clarissa S. Batino

A DAY after President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Philippine economy was one of the strongest in Asia, her administration announced that its budget deficit rose to P119.72 billion during the first six months or 91 percent of the P130-billion target for the year.

The announcement set off a fall in the peso and fears of a sell-off in stocks when the market reopens today.

The stock market had closed before the budget figures were announced but the peso slipped to about 50.60 to the dollar from an opening of 50.48.

While revenues of P266.9 billion slightly exceeded the six-month target of P266.7 billion, spending of P386.62 billion was 12.22 percent more than the P344.52-billion commitment for the period.

Thus, the fiscal gap, a significant measure of the government's economic performance, exceeded the first semester target of P78.26 billion by about 150 percent and its deficit of P77.82 billion a year ago by 53.84 percent.

Corazon Guidote, the government's spokesperson, said the Macapagal administration was sticking to its full-year target of P130 billion and would strive to post surpluses or at least balance the budget in the coming months.

She pointed out that in June alone, the deficit of P12.18 billion was 37.54 percent lower than the P19.5-billion fiscal gap a year ago.

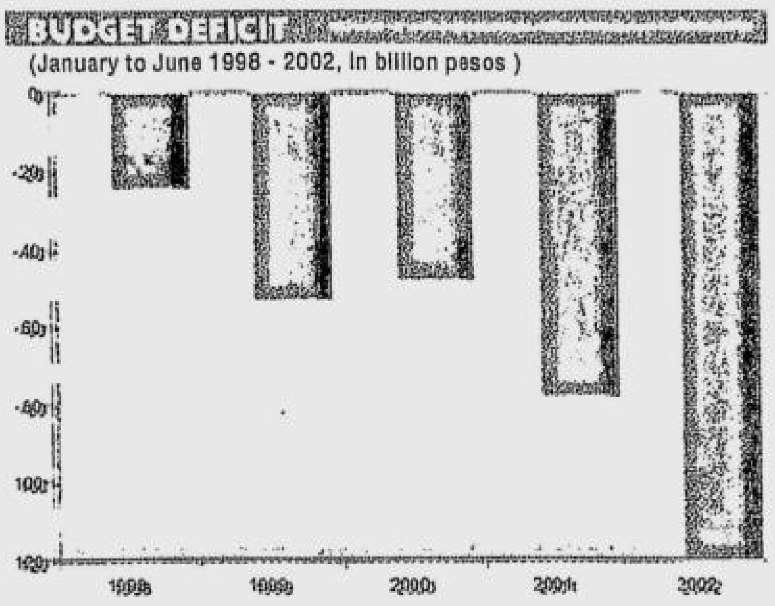
Sergio Ortiz-Luis, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the deficit numbers announced by the government was expected and should not raise undue concern from the business community.

"For as long as the government uses the money for development and infrastructure, the deficit should not be a cause for concern. What makes it bad is that everybody's preoccupied with watching it at the expense of the more important things like pump priming the economy," the PCCI president said.

The government spent more in the first half as it paid its obligations in advance to have more flexibility in managing the budget during the second semester. Expenditures exceeded the target despite P16.7 billion in savings on debt-servicing as a result of lower interest rates during the period.

BUDGET DEFICIT

(January to June 1998 - 2002, in billion pesos)



Guidote pointed to the improving performance of the bureaus of internal revenue and of customs in June as one of the factors that should support the government's fiscal commitment.

While the BIR's six-month collection of P189.09 billion was still short by P33.46 billion against the target, its revenue in June alone was 16.25 percent more at P43.06 billion against the P36.95 billion in June 2001.

Customs' collection of P44.4 billion from January to June was P9.11 billion short of its six-month target. The agency's shortfall had declined in June when it collected P7.624 billion against last year's P7.919 billion.

The Bureau of Treasury continued to perform well as it contributed P16.46 billion in the first six months against a target of P9.87 billion or 12.12 percent more than its earnings a year ago. In June, the Treasury remitted P3.802 billion to the government compared to P3.33 billion in 2001.

BUDGET/ B3

First Pacific seeks to trim powers of PLDT execs

By Doris C. Dumlao

HONG Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. is calling for the review of powers given to the board and management of local telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., citing the need to protect shareholder interest.

The move is seen as an attempt to give shareholders like itself more say in running the affairs of PLDT following the continuing efforts led by PLDT president and renegade First Pacific executive chair Manuel V. Pangilinan to block the sale of the Hong Kong conglomerate's controlling stake in PLDT to the Gokongwei group.

In an earlier statement issued by PLDT after First Pacific (which has an interest of 24.47 percent in PLDT) made public a memorandum of agreement with the Gokongweis on Monday, PLDT lamented that despite restrictions in the PLDT by-laws, First Pacific "has continued to promote a transaction with parties who are primary competitors of PLDT."

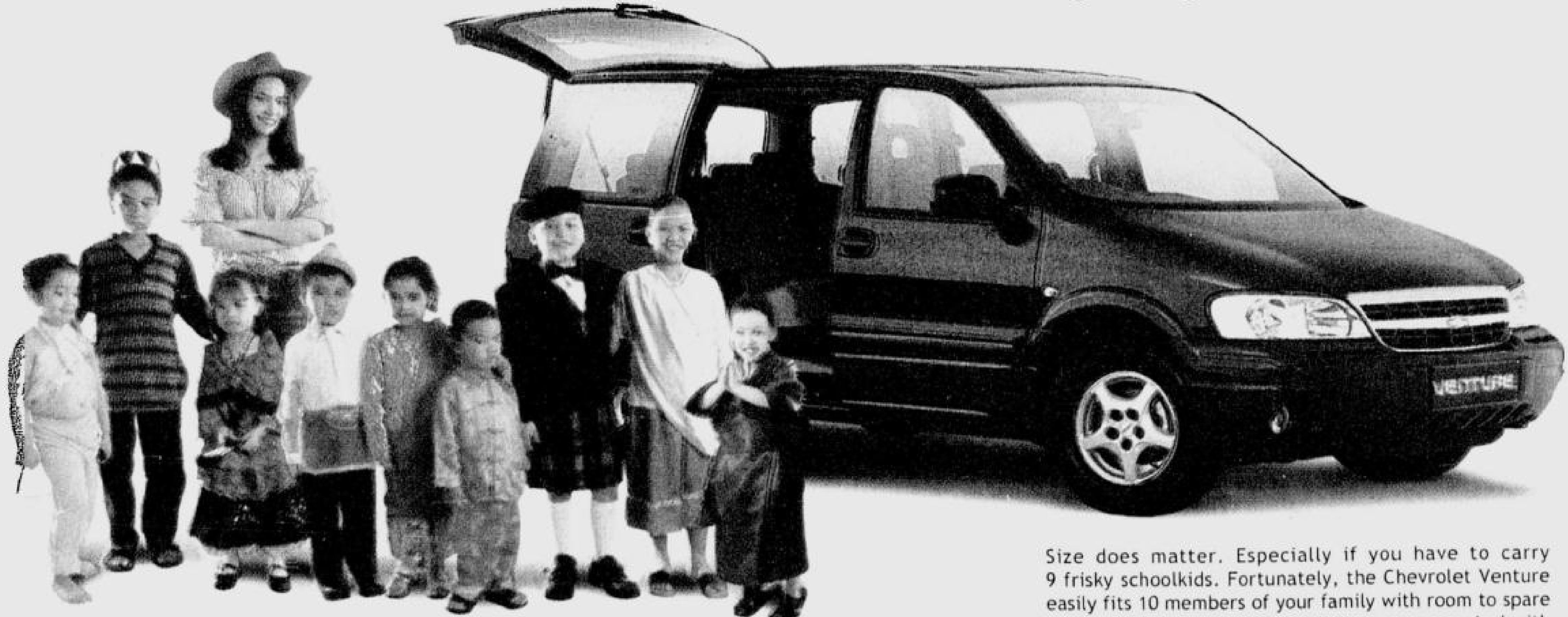
The Gokongweis control Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., the second biggest fixed line provider in the country next to PLDT.

On the matter of PLDT's by-laws provision on the nomination and election of competitors to the board of PLDT, First Pacific said this was approved March 29 last year "without prior notice to, and approval by, PLDT's shareholders in general meeting."

"While the PLDT board acted pursuant to a PLDT shareholders' resolution, because such resolution was enacted in April 1953, it would be best corporate governance practice at this time for all PLDT shareholders to be given the

FIRST/ B5

Big enough to fit 10 countries.



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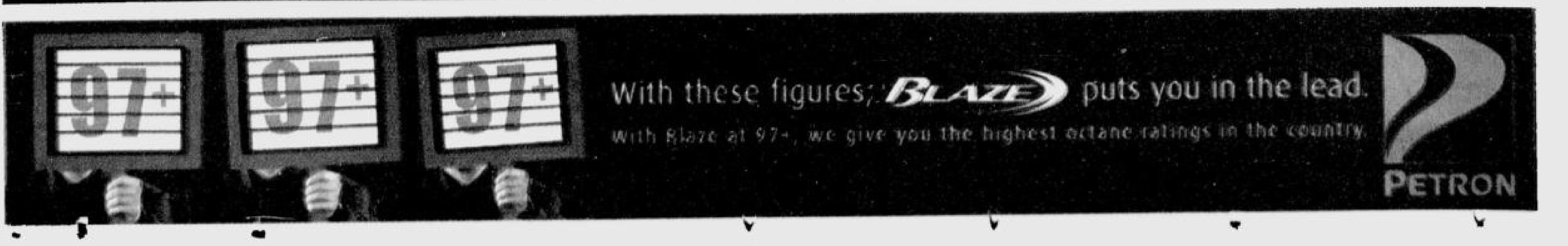
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Napocor, Meralco agree to offer perks for heavier consumption

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY officials said yesterday they were working on new pricing incentives to further cut power rates in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's promises in her recent State of the Nation Address.

In a news statement, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the National Power Corp. and Manila Electric Co. agreed, in principle, to offer perks for greater power consumption.

Napocor and Meralco have agreed to adopt a "declining block" structure that offers discounts for the use of electricity above normal consumption, Perez said.

He said Napocor and Meralco agreed to implement the program for three months.

"This would encourage economic activity, (as it would) give substantial savings for industrial firms," Perez said.

Meralco and Napocor, however, have yet to agree on whether covered firms should have a consumption level of at least 1 megawatt or 500 kilowatts, he said.

Perez added that Napocor and Meralco were expected to meet again this week to come up with a more detailed pricing incentive program.

He said such a program would need the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The energy chief said his department was also firming up efforts to have a wholesale electricity spot market operating before the end of the year in view of delays in the adoption of an interim management system for the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM).

"We are now even studying the possibility of sourcing from the National Transmission Corp.'s internally generated funds the finances needed for the interim WESM in order to accelerate its implementation," Perez said.

The World Bank earlier disapproved a software that France-based Alstom proposed for the WESM. The lender was initially eyed as the funding agency for the project.

Perez said the Department of Energy would also press for the acceleration of the open access scheme that would create competition in the electricity distribution sector.

He said open access meant the power of choice, which the President in her Sona vowed to give consumers.

7 telecom firms get permanent licenses

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission finally issued yesterday permanent licenses to seven telecommunication carriers, which have been operating all these years only with provisional authorities.

In its anniversary, the NTC formally issued certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to Smart Communications Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corp., Globe Telecom Inc., Isla Communications Co. Inc., Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc., Capitol Wireless Inc., Philippine Global Communications Corp. and Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Co.

The regulatory body also extended the provisional authorities, or the temporary licenses to operate, of Bell Telecommunication Phil. Inc. and Digitel for its yet-to-be-launched cellular phone service.

Smart was granted a CPCN for both Cellular Mobile Telephone System (CMTS) and International Gateway Facility or IGF. Globe and Islacom, on the other hand, were granted permanent licenses for their CMTS and local exchange carrier (LEC) services.

Digitel was granted CPCNs for its LEC and IGF services. Philcom, PT&T and Piltel were given permanent licenses for LEC services, while Capwire was granted a CPCN for its IGF business.

The telecom firms were granted their permanent licenses after having demonstrated their legal, financial and technical capabilities in operating and maintaining cellular mobile telephone systems, international gateway facilities and landline systems.

Another basis was the companies' fulfillment of their landline obligations: 400,000 lines for the CMTS license and 300,000 lines for the IGF license.

Smart, Globe and Islacom all exceeded the 80 percent minimum compliance requirement for coverage of all provincial capitals, including all chartered cities within a period of seven years. Smart reported a 92-percent compliance.

But the CPCNs will still be subject to certain conditions. In an earlier interview, NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said the CPCNs could still be recalled if the carriers would not be able to meet certain conditions.

"We're giving them a timeframe within which they should comply with some requirements that they still lack. We decided to just reverse the process. Instead of waiting for them to fulfill all their requirements before we issue the CPCNs, we issued the CPCNs on the condition that they fulfill what they have not done yet," he said.

These included the carriers' lack of compliance in terms of the urban-to-rural ratio, which required telecom firms to roll out one landline in a rural area for every 10 lines rolled out in an urban area.

Meralco posts profit decline

THE MANILA Electric Co. yesterday said it suffered a 51.2-percent decline in net income during the first semester, from P953 million in 2001 to P465 this year.

The utility giant said its net income in the second quarter went down by 3.7 percent to P538 million from the year-ago figure of P558.6 million.

Meralco said the decline was due to delays in obtaining a rate adjustment and the 109-percent decline in its share in the net earnings of subsidiaries.

The electricity distributor said sales volume from April to June this year reached 5,948 million kilowatt-hours, up by 2.2 percent from 5,818 million kWh in the same period last year.

The firm added that its operating revenues reached only P31.6 billion in the second quarter, down by 5.2 percent from last year's P33.4 billion.

Also, the utility's second-quarter operating expenses went down by 5.1 percent to P30.4 billion this year from P32.1 billion last year.

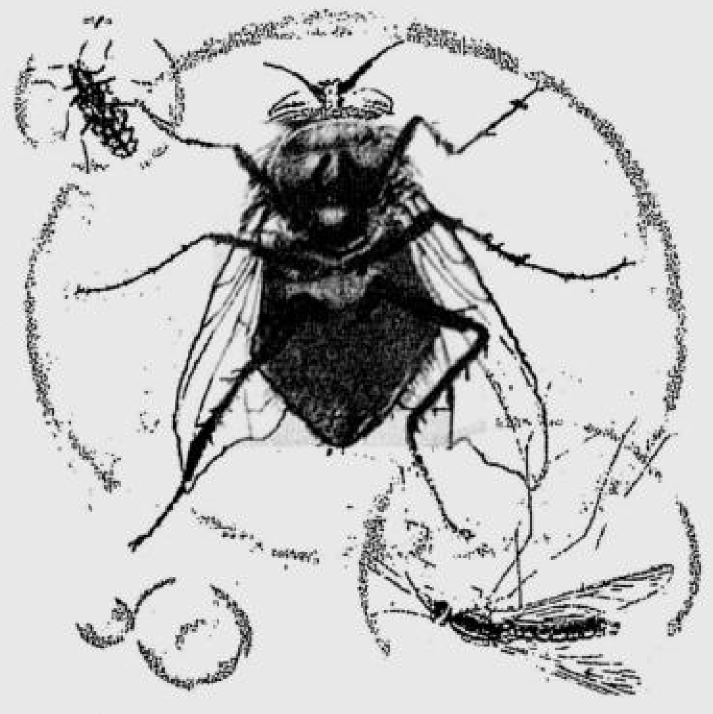
The improvement was attributed to the lower cost of purchased power from P26.6 billion in 2001, down by 6.8 percent to P24.8 billion.

Meralco senior assistant vice president Antonio Valera earlier told the Energy Regulatory Commission that the firm's financial performance in the first semester was expected to decline by about 50 percent.

Valera said that aside from Meralco's inability to increase its rates, the slowdown in the local economy also contributed to the decline of the firm's income. In the first quarter, Meralco posted a net loss of P73 million.

In the first semester last year, Meralco suffered a 47-percent year-on-year decline in income. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

DEATH BY FOGGING.



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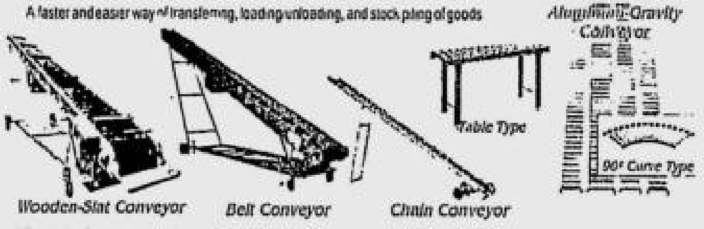

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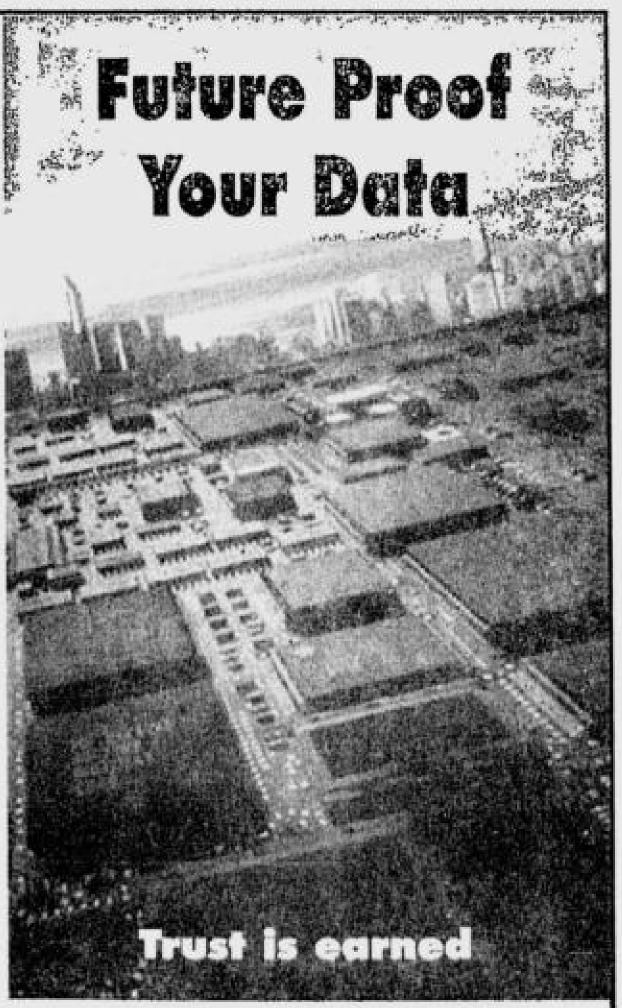

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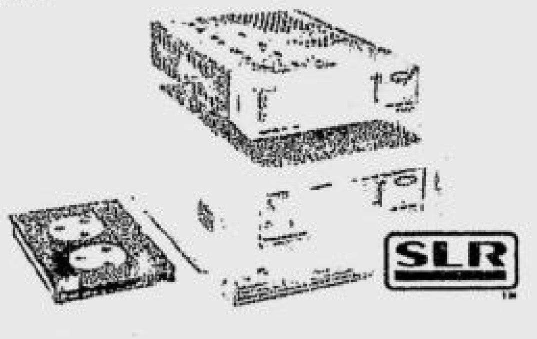

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Budget . . .

From page B1

Revenues from fees and charges gave the government P16.96 billion in the first semester, a little short against the target of P17.56 billion but was 12.72 percent more compared to P15.046 billion in the first half of 2001. In June, the collection from fees and charges of P2.54 billion was also higher than last year's P1.77 billion.

Guidote pointed out that the government expenditures started to taper off in June when spending of P55.24 billion was 2.06 percent lower than P56.4 billion in June 2001.

"The collection trend in the BIR and Customs have been encouraging. There may be adjustments on the revenue and spending targets of the government but the full-year deficit target will remain intact," she said.

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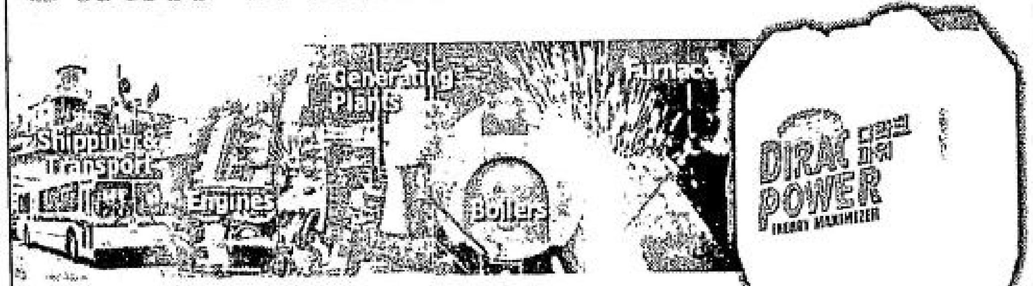

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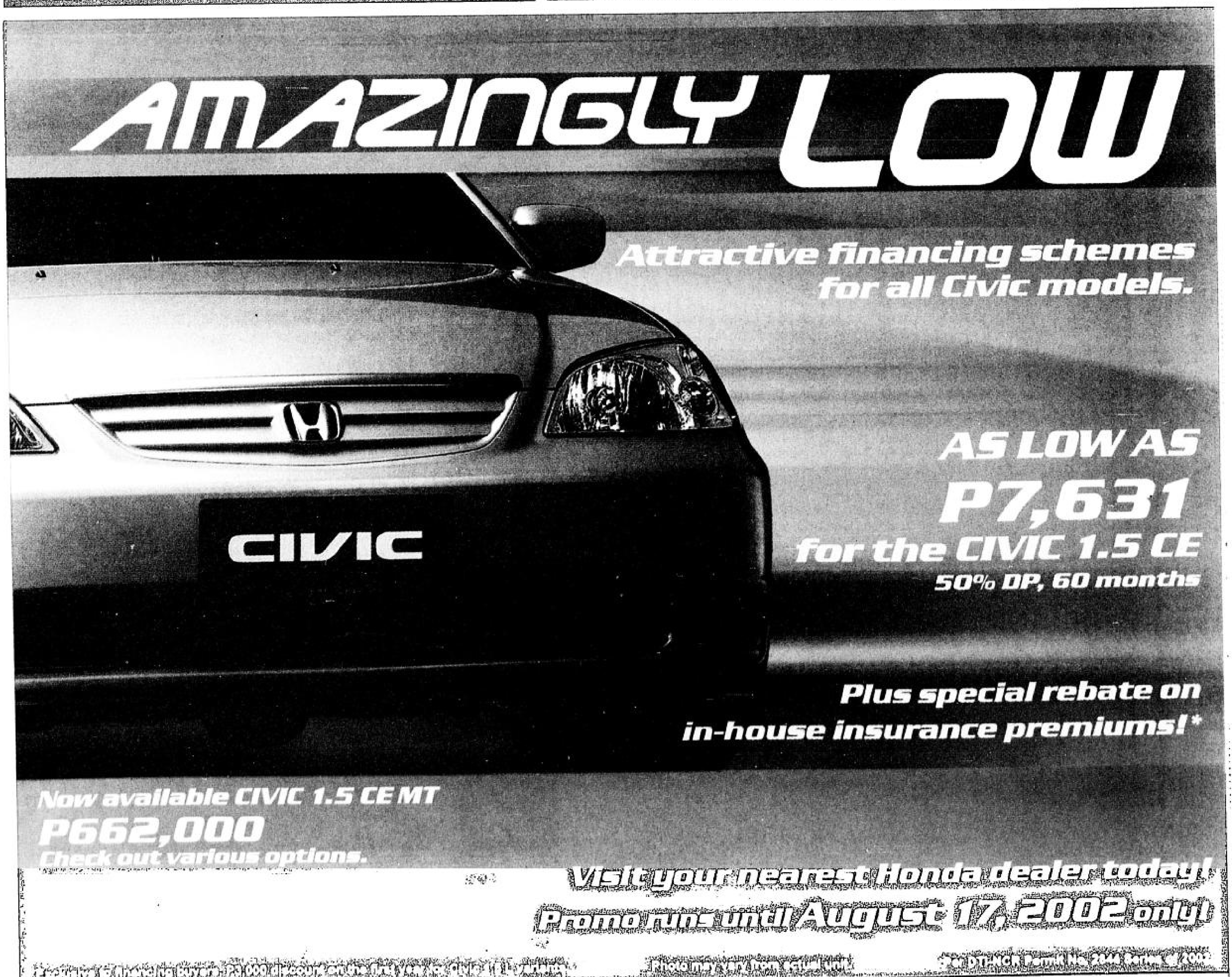
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HONDA

CONSUMER PROTECTION

DTI joins probe of Glasgow

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has joined the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission in the investigation of controversial investment firms ICS Exports Inc. and Glasgow Credit and Collection Services Inc. for allegedly duping hundreds of investors through pyramiding.

A top DTI official said the department would meet with BSP and SEC officials today to mark the jurisdiction of each agency in pyramiding cases as well as to finalize the draft Department Administrative Order (DAO) that would toughen up laws against financial rip-offs, specifically pyramiding.

The DTI source said government agencies must closely coordinate their operations especially in pyramiding cases in order to avoid overlapping of functions and to speed up the investigation process.

The operations of both ICS and Glasgow—which have attracted droves of investors with whopping returns of 10 percent to 15 percent a month—fall under the pyramiding scheme category of the Consumer Protection Act being enforced by the DTI. This is because their scheme involves a 2 percent referral fee for each individual recruited by an agent. The Consumer Act prohibits the employment of chain distribution plans or pyramid schemes in the sale of products.

The BSP, through the Anti-Money Laundering Council, and the SEC earlier issued a freeze order against Glasgow following the collapse of ICS and in view of mounting complaints mostly from soldiers and policemen.

The BSP has taken an interest in Glasgow for allegedly accepting pseudo-deposits. The SEC has issued a cease-and-desist order to Glasgow for operating beyond its corporate purpose.

Aside from Glasgow and ICS, the DTI source said the BSP and the SEC would provide input to the Department Administrative Order (DAO) which would put more teeth in the laws currently enforced against get-rich-quick scams.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said the DTI Consumer Welfare and Trade Regulation Group wanted to implement the DAO by the end of this month.

The draft DAO is expected to prohibit sales schemes where agents or recruiters get their income by enlisting more participants into the scheme or through the multiple resale of goods with mark-up from level to level.

The DTI noted that sales plans of pyramiding schemes normally require entry fees or compulsory purchases of a fixed quantity of products for the right to join the scheme. The pyramiding scam master then use the fees collected from new recruits to pay off claims by old recruits; a participant's income was based on the participant's slot based on time, date and order of participation, and participants are not allowed to return the products or get a refund.

SM Prime's first 6-month profit up 10%

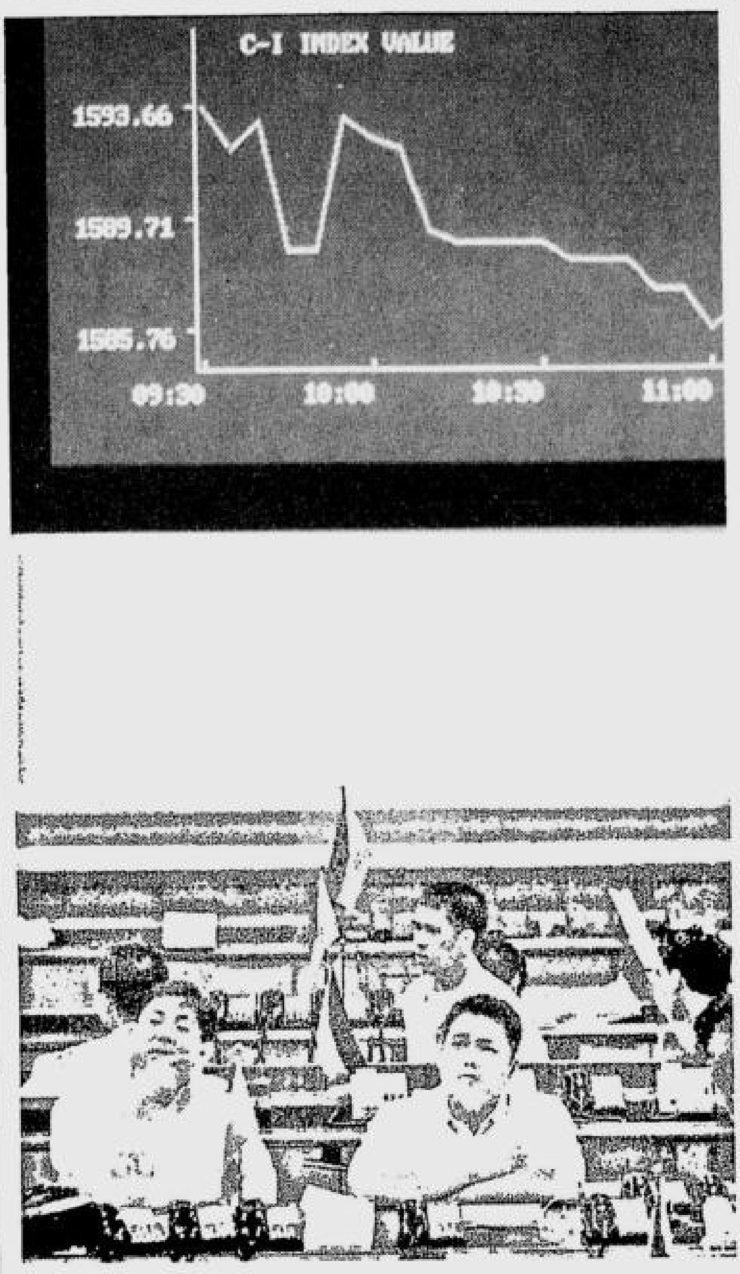
SM Prime Holdings Inc. posted a net income of P1.87 billion for the six months ending June 30, an increase of 10 percent from last year's P1.7 billion.

Total revenues grew 14 percent to P3.89 billion compared with the previous year's P3.4 billion. Rental revenues rose 12 percent to P3.05 billion, from last year's P2.72 billion, while cinema revenues surged 22 percent to P638.6 million from P525.4 million in 2001. Income from operations increased 11 percent to P2.3 billion, from last year's P2.07 billion.

Last year, the company opened its 11th and 12th malls—the 57,000-square-meter SM Supercenter-Sucat in Parañaque and the 76,000-sq.m. SM City-Davao. In addition, SM Prime built and opened in December 2001 its 23,000-sq.m. annex at SM City-Pampanga.

The company remains steady in opening at least two malls per year nationwide in line with its continuing expansion program. It is set to inaugurate in the last quarter of this year its 13th and 14th malls. These malls are in the growth areas of Bicutan, Parañaque, Metro Manila, and in Cagayan de Oro City.

The multilevel 112,000-sq.m. mall in Bicutan will sit on a 40,000-sq.m. property in the corner of the South Luzon Expressway and Dona Soledad Avenue, better known as the Bicutan Interchange. The Bicutan Interchange is a major transport terminal and the crossroads of several densely populated Parañaque and Taguig barangays.



TRADERS await calls from local investors, while an electronic monitor shows the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index graph. Shares ended little changed yesterday, with some light buying interest in selected blue chips offsetting the negative impact of another sharp slide on Wall Street overnight. REUTERS

Bond float for Napocor postponed

THE $600-MILLION bond flotation aimed at raising funds for National Power Corp. has been reset from August to November, an energy official said.

The schedule was moved in view of ongoing talks between concerned government agencies and creditors.

"(Officials of) the Asian Development Bank are meeting with (their counterparts in) the Bureau of Treasury, Department of Finance and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. to iron out the details of the float," said the energy official who is privy to the matter.

He said the meetings included discussions on who would underwrite the ADB-backed $600-million borrowing. There are seven investment banks in the shortlist. The source said the underwriter would be chosen by next week.

Napocor has so far raised $750 million but still needs about $1.1 billion to finance its expenses this year.

The source, however, said the float could proceed only after the release of the third tranche, worth $200 million, of a program loan for power reforms.

The release of the amount—$100 million each from the ADB and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation—is however tied to the adoption and operation of the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM). Also, the loan is tied to the approval of Napocor's privatization program.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, July 23, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	1,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49	50	48.5	50	183,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	30	29	29.5	350,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	33	33.5	214,100
Security Bank Corp.	13.5	14.5	13.5	14.5	800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	93,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	27,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	920	920	885	885	13,680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23	23	23	23	500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.69	0.71	0.69	0.71	1,750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	525	530	525	525	540
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	64,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	340	340	337.5	337.5	106,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	400,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	21,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20	20.25	19.5	19.75	3,600
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	28.5	27.5	28	184,700
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.76	3,349,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	2,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.38	2.4	2.38	2.4	606,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	81,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32	57,400
RFM Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.93	170,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47	46.5	47	61,400
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	52.5	52.5	52.5	42,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	2,136,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.48	2.48	2.44	2.44	7,732,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	340,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	660,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	2,470,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05	3,700,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.4	1,320,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp	14.25	14.25	12	12.75	4,791,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	2,800,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	40,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.66	0.68	3,730,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	140,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,720,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	450,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	1,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	1,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.8	9	8.8	9	42,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	60,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23	23	23	23	1,435,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	17,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	6	5,404,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	420,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.24	2.24	1,174,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	750,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	16,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.8	330,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	12,930,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	50,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	21,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	6,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	250,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	660,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	34,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	4,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.4	190,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	885,180	40,389,025.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	66,396,510	194,494,830.00
PRO	21,734,000	111,893,040.00
Mining	34,060,000	411,400.00
OIL	40,190,000	198,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	163,265,690	347,387,095.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	465.55	UP 6.89
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,580.31	DOWN 13.35
PRO	534.70	UP 6.55
Mining	1,256.69	UP 63.09
OIL	1.26	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	653.80	DOWN 8.64
Composite	1,158.05	UP 0.18

NO. OF ADVANCES: 16; NO. OF DECLINES: 31; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 81; NO. OF TRADES: 1,792

CURRENCIES

July 23, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.991179	1.000000	50.3800
Japan	Yen	0.008529	0.008605	0.4335
United Kingdom	Pound	1.565864	1.579800	79.5903
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.127076	0.128207	6.4591
Switzerland	Franc	0.687411	0.693529	34.9400
Canada	Dollar	0.633462	0.639100	32.1979
Singapore	Dollar	0.572010	0.577101	29.0743
Australia	Dollar	0.546706	0.551572	27.7882
Bahrain	Dinar	2.629261	2.652661	133.6411
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.264308	0.266660	13.4343
Brunei	Dollar	0.570791	0.575871	29.0124
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000114	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024528	0.024746	1.2467
UAE	Dirham	0.269877	0.272279	13.7174
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000869	0.0438
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.008900	50.8284
Argentina	Real	0.276866	0.279330	14.0726
Brazil	Real	0.344638	0.347705	17.5174
Denmark	Kroner	0.134373	0.135569	6.8300
India	Rupee	0.020382	0.020563	1.0360
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.260871	0.263193	13.2597
Mexico	New Peso	0.102798	0.103713	5.2251
New Zealand	Dollar	0.479734	0.484004	24.3841
Norway	Kroner	0.132154	0.133330	6.7172
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016561	0.016708	0.8417
South Africa	Rand	0.099466	0.100351	5.0557
Sweden	Kroner	0.104836	0.105769	5.3286
Syria	Pound	0.019283	0.019455	0.9801
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030237	0.030506	1.5369
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000756	0.000763	0.0384

PSE starts trading sked survey

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday embarked on another survey to determine whether member-brokers would want to return to half-day trading or adopt longer trading hours in the afternoon.

In a letter sent to member-brokers yesterday, PSE president Ernest Leung also included an optional and/or offsite afternoon trading among the choices.

Currently, the trading at the PSE begins at 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and resumes at 1 p.m. for the afternoon session that ends at 2:30 p.m.

PSE members are asked to choose from the following options: morning trading only from 9 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. or morning and afternoon sessions. Under the second option, the morning session will follow the existing schedule while the afternoon trading will begin at 2 p.m. and end at 4 p.m.

For those in favor of the second option, they are further asked whether afternoon trade and presence in the trading floor should be made optional.

Member-brokers were given up to Aug. 7 to reply to the survey.

"This survey is in response to requests for changes in trading hours of the exchange to adjust to current market conditions," Leung said.

Leung noted that some brokers had proposed to reduce costs by limiting the PSE operations to a morning session while others argued for the inclusion of an afternoon session aligned to trading hours of regional markets.

The PSE president included the optional afternoon trading in the survey, revising an earlier survey issued by its Floor Trading and Arbitration Committee (FTAC).

"We regret to advise that the survey on trading hours issued in the name of FTAC dated July 18, 2002 and released on July 19, 2002 to some trading participants is not consistent with the instruments of the board or with the understanding reached in the consultations of management with FTAC," Leung said in a separate memorandum.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED officers of **Philex Mining Corp.** were Henry Brimo, chairman emeritus; Gerard Brimo, chair, CEO and president; Alfredo Figueras, SVP, treasurer and CFO; Leonardo Josef, SVP and COO; Barbara Anne Migallos, corporate secretary, and Guadaflor Malonzo, assistant corporate secretary.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Urbancorp Realty Developers Inc.** were Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., Reynaldo David, Alfredo Yao, Benjamin Castillo, Dionisio Carpio Jr., Roberto Amores and Benjamin Kalalo Jr.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. declared a P0.30 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of July 26, payable on Aug. 26.

* * *

GLOBAL Business Bank said it would defer its merger with **Metrobank Card Corp.** Its name will also be changed to Global Business Holdings Inc. instead of Metrobank Card Corp. as previously approved by the board.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. it was keeping its P3.5 billion net income target for 2002

* * *

AYALA Land Inc. clarified that no formal offer has been made to the company for the acquisition of Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

* * *

ELECTED independent director of **Primex Corp.** was Ruben Gan.

* * *

REPORTED lost were **A.Soriano Corp.** stock certificates Nos. B000765 and B371475.

* * *

EBECOM Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 15 with record date of July 15.

* * *

ELECTED independent directors of **Concrete Aggregates Corp.** were Jaime Ortigas, Alberto Montilla, Rafael Ortigas, Ma. Victoria Ortigas-Borromeo and Generosa Reyes. And appointed executive committee members were Ignacio Ortigas, Francisco Ortigas III, Paul Joseph Lawrence, Fernando Ortigas and Jose Rodriguez ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of July 24, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,550,000	1,600,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	Please Call
Canlubang	-	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	140,000	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	180,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	210,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	300,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	14,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	800,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Rivera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,600,000	1,850,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	820,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	Please Call
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	Please Call
Valle Verde (Corporate)	-	330,000
Valley Golf	280,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,875,000	7,300,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
MAKATI 840-1761 • Fax 894-3021 / 750-7894
ALABANG 850-8223 • Fax 772-1817
or e-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
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COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

HOW would you feel if your next Supreme Court justice as a lawyer waylaid the courts with terminological inexactitudes protecting his biggest client?

Adolf S. Azcuna, a leading candidate for the Supreme Court, did precisely that in protecting his bread-and-butter client, Manila Bulletin "owner" Emilio Yap.

On Nov. 22, 1995, Azcuna gave an opinion as "independent legal counsel" to the Manila Bulletin as to the legality of its initial public offering.

"There are no suits or proceedings which will in any manner affect your integrity or solvency and that all your officers have the qualifications to act as such," Azcuna said.

Azcuna's certification was, in turn, relied upon by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which gave the green light for the Bulletin's stock exchange listing.

Azcuna of course was more than fiddling with the facts.

Contrary to his claim, the "independent" legal counsel, then and up to now, was lawyering for the Bulletin, both in the Sandiganbayan and in the Supreme Court. Proof? We have a copy of a motion filed with the Supreme Court and Sandiganbayan on Sept. 21, 1995, where Azcuna signed as Bulletin counsel, along with publisher Napoleon Rama, Amorsolo Mendoza, and Francis Gaw.

Azcuna's claim that there were "no suits or proceedings" against the Bulletin was belied by the Sandiganbayan in its decision last March 5, 2002, that declared the Hans Menzi shares, representing about 72 percent of the Bulletin, to be "ill-gotten wealth."

Those are the very same shares that the Bulletin sold to its unsuspecting employees and the public. Those are also the very same shares Yap bought to gain majority control of the country's oldest English daily.

Why the SEC gave the green light for the sale of the Menzi shares, despite a 1990 Supreme Court ruling that the sale of sequestered assets without a Sandiganbayan approval is null and void, is one of the major corporate mysteries that have yet to be explained.

And the legality of the sale of those very same Menzi shares will be decided by the Supreme Court, with Azcuna probably sitting in as the court's newest member.

To help Azcuna gain the appointment, the Makati Business Club, the champion of corporate governance, has even come out and publicly lobbied for the former constitutional commissioner who was named, incidentally, after Hitler.

How very kosher!

No victory for Chiongbian

WG&A chair Victor Chiongbian has been stopped in his tracks about his plan to change the president/CEO of the shipping consortium, a post currently held by Enrique "Endika" Aboitiz Jr.

"We would like to inform you that one of the major reasons for the granting of the P100-million loan (to) WG&A is the management of the Aboitiz group," the International Exchange Bank told Chiongbian in a letter dated July 17, 2002. *(See Cocktales, July 15, 2002, for background.)*

"Hence, we regret to inform you that we are declining your request to affix our conformity for the (planned) change in management."

"Should there be any change we reserve the right to consider WG&A in default," said the letter, signed by I-Bank executive vice president Beatriz Barredo-Romulo.

Chiongbian, according to the Cebu grapevine, is currently meeting with Chinabank, one of his creditors regarding his P350-million exposure, part of the P3-billion loans among banks and other creditors that Chiongbian is now juggling repayments.

Chinabank is allegedly demanding that Chiongbian turn in more security in addition to a now-inadequate real estate collateral.

A free man

EX-CIPI officer Juan Claudio S. Laya, whom the new management of the failed investment bank Corporate Investments Philippines Inc. sued along with other ex-CIPI officers, is now in the United States, taking up an MBA. *(See Cocktales, July 22, 2002).*

The estafa complaint against Laya was dismissed in January by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño for insufficiency of evidence although that dismissal is being appealed, said Laya counsel Heidi Cruz.

Laya was a junior CIPI officer in the late '90s and his only participation in the alleged "fraudulent transactions" was counter-signing the check vouchers.

"He had nothing to do with approvals of investments or other payments made by CIPI," said Cruz.

If his name rings a bell, it is because Laya is a son of former Central Bank Governor Jaime Laya.

Heard through the grapevine

WARRANTS of arrest were issued against concert producer Felix Co and four other accused after Co and company failed to appear in yesterday's arraignment before Makati RTC Judge Cesar Santamaria.

Co is accused of defrauding his business partner William Tieng of Solar Films of more than P200 million in advertising revenues.

Co's Maximedia Entertainment is producing this weekend's concert at Greenbelt featuring the retro Hotdog and the BoyFriends.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PGA Sompo Japan Insurance Inc.
(Formerly PGA Yasuda Insurance Co., Inc.)
A joint venture between:
Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Inc.
and Sompo Japan Insurance Inc

Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of 31 December 2000

ADMITTED ASSETS	
Investment in Treasury Bills	P 104,700,000.00
Stocks	65,785.00
Security Fund	18,690.34
Other Investments	5,400,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	112,705,119.51
Premiums Receivable	26,523,412.15
Premiums Due From Ceding Cos.	11,459,663.68
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses	109,619,562.80
Accrued Interest Income Receivable	1,431.61
EDP Equipment	3,124,959.21
Total Admitted Assets	P 373,618,624.30
LIABILITIES	
Losses and Claims Payable	P 100,346,490.28
Loss Adjustment Expense Payable	320,518.49
Reserve for Unearned Premium	12,223,641.03
Catastrophe Loss Reserve	92,525.22
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	68,730,950.34
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurer	5,237,932.42
Other RI Accounts Payable	2,842,022.73
Commissions Payable	5,841,353.44
Accrued Expenses	4,443,633.57
Taxes Payable	70,005,743.20
Accounts	9,677,679.99
Unearned Bond Discount	2,509,659.39
Other Liabilities	8,985,925.35
Total Liabilities	P 291,258,075.45
NET WORTH	
Capital Stock Paid-Up	P 50,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus	4,666,000.00
Retained Earnings	27,694,548.85
Total Networth	P 82,360,548.85
Total Liabilities & Networth	P 373,618,624.30

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2000 Annual Statement approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code.

Ecozone, semiconductor groups buck plan to trim tax incentives

By Clarissa S. Batino

ECONOMIC zone developers and semiconductor groups have objected to the plan of the Department of Finance to trim down the incentives and warned the government that paring down the tax perks would only drive away investors.

In separate position papers, the Philippine Industrial Estates Association or Philea and the Semiconductors and Electronic Industries in the Philippines Inc. or Seipi urged the government to reconsider its plan to reduce the tax incentives.

Both groups said that without these perks, the government would have a harder time to entice investors to set up shop in the country.

Philea and Seipi said separately that if the government would compare the supposed foregone revenue as against the contribution brought by the investments enticed by the tax perks, the country should still realize a net inflow.

The inflow would come from income taxes paid by workers directly employed by the businesses and even from indirect beneficiaries like suppliers as well as from the taxes paid in terms of value-added tax, real property taxes, withholding tax and other government fees and charges.

The finance department estimated that import duty exemption and tax holidays granted by the government had deprived the public coffers of P187.2 billion in potential revenues last year, up 20.3 percent or P31.56 billion from the estimated losses of P155.64 billion in year 2000.

"If these incentives were not present or not competitive, there would have been no investments made in the first place and if there are no investments, there would be no revenues to be generated," said Seipi.

"And if there are no revenues, no tax would be computed and there would be no such thing as foregone revenues," the semiconductor association added.

Philea, for its part, argued that investors in industrial zones paid total salaries and wages worth P25 billion during the first five months of the year. Total investments in ecozones from 1995 to 2001 had reached P767.6 billion and resulted in the creation of 497,007 jobs.

"Changing the rules in the middle of the game after investors have set up factories here will not augur well for the Philippines as an ideal investment site for foreign companies as it will give a perception of instability and lack of coordination among government agencies," the ecozone developers warned.

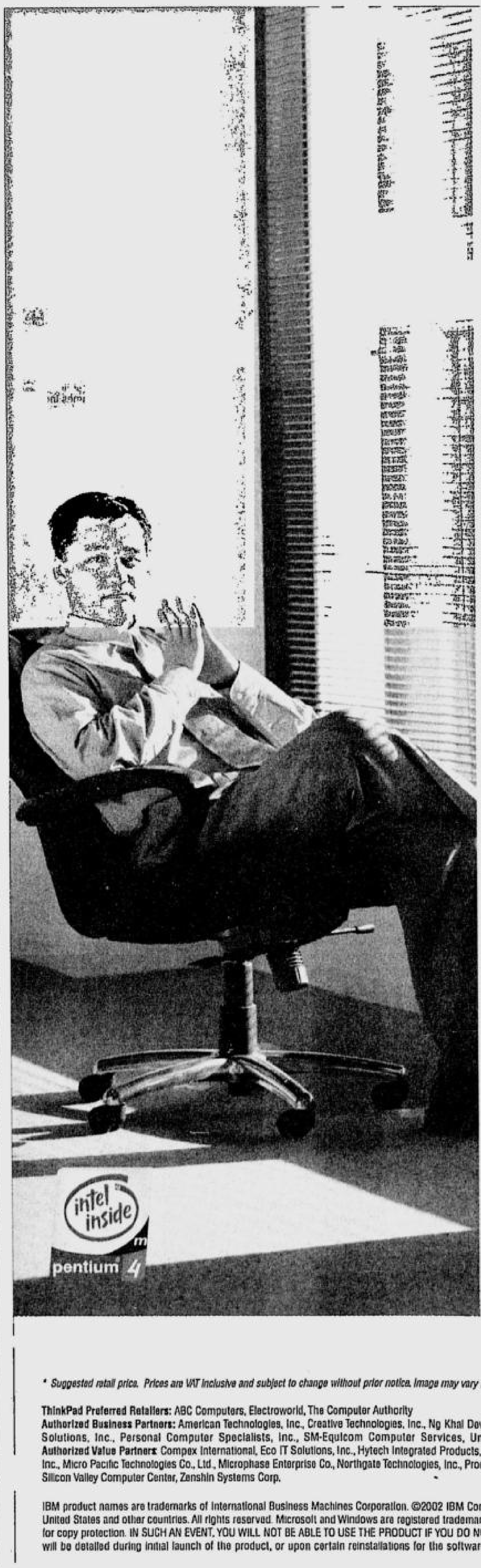
First Pacific . . .

From page B1

opportunity to review, in the next general meeting, this resolution and other similarly adopted resolutions, to ensure that management act at all times in the best interest of all shareholders," First Pacific said.

First Pacific's position was that in relation to the by-laws governing the qualification of directors, the resolution in question was relevant only to the nomination and election of directors to the board of PLDT and does not affect the transfer of interests as contemplated by the Gokongwei deal.

Also, it said that a majority vote in the PLDT board could determine whether a person was engaged in any business that competed with or was antagonistic to that of PLDT and its subsidiaries.



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Authorized Value Partners: Compex International, Eco IT Solutions, Inc., Hytech Integrated Products, Inc., Information Products, Inc., Micro Pacific Technologies Co., Ltd., Microphase Enterprise Co., Northgate Technologies, Inc., Productivity Tech Services, Inc., Silicon Valley Computer Center, Zenshin Systems Corp.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

STI to launch customer contact course

ACCORDING to statistics, there are more than 1 million call centers worldwide. This number is expected to grow by an additional 300,000 by this year, employing approximately 18 million people. It is estimated that call centers will form the bulk of a $60-billion remote processing spending along with back office operations, data conversion and financial accounting operations. Many call centers are strategically located in the United States, Western Europe, Asia Pacific and Japan.

With the growing trend for call center outsourcing by multinational companies, the Philippines has been developing itself as a potential alternative to India for offshore call center services, particularly for the US market. One important advantage for the country is its huge pool of English-speaking, computer-savvy college graduates who can cater to the industry's skill demands with minimal training.

To address the need for more information and communications technology (ICT)-skilled call center professionals, STI, one of the country's largest education services groups, will launch a course geared towards two-year and four-year course graduates hoping to start careers in this fast-growing industry.

The customer contact course is comprised of short-term modules that include subjects like speech and oral communication, grammar, personality development, customer relations, basic computer, keyboarding and an on-the-job-training. It caters to a specialized industry that is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the country today.

With specialized ICT training, graduates of the course will acquire skills in handling all types of inquiries, complaints and sales. The course is also applicable to professionals like marketing, sales and public relations practitioners who may want to improve on their personality and communication skills.

The customer contact course will be made available in selected STI Colleges and Education Centers nationwide, starting August. For more information, call 887-8447 local 6980 or 6985 and look for Ruby Macalintal or Charlie Espinosa.

Philippine Association of National Advertisers

PANA AWARDS CAP

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers, during its 5th General Membership Meeting at Punta Baluarte, awarded CAP Philippines Inc. as winner of the Pana Values Formation Award for January 2002. The winning advertising campaign was dubbed 'OFWs.' Shown at the awarding ceremony are (front row, from left) Pana board secretary Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva Inc., CAP Philippines vice president Marissa N. Dames, and Pana president Gigi B. Rodriguez of Citibank NA. At the back, from left, are Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, Pana PRO Jones Campos of Globe Telecom, Pana directors Cergen Go of Swedish Match Philippines and Atoy Babasa of The Andresons Group.

CWC GOES CARIBBEAN

For its 81st annual tea, the Catholic Women's Club is going on a 'Caribbean Cruise'. Sailing time is 3 p.m. today, July 24, at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila. In charge of the cruise are chair Thelma Gana assisted by co-chair Cecile Limjoco and Myrna Borromeo. This year's president is Lulu Castaneda. Other members of the committee are Pilie Aquino, membership and physical arrangement. Reception and usherettes members are Mely Magsino, Sol Lavadia, Tessie Gonzales, Roi Phillips and Nini Layug. The choreographer for the special dance numbers is Jeremy Vallejo. Agnes Suarez is in charge of the sets and backdrops. For reservation, call Violy at 843-2869.

PMAP, MAXICARE FORGES PARTNERSHIP

Maxicare, a leading healthcare provider, signs a memorandum of agreement with the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), a professional organization of human resource practitioners. Maxicare is one of the major sponsors of the 39th PMAP Conference scheduled from Sept. 25 to 27 in Cebu. With an expected attendance of 1,000 HRM practitioners, business executives, academicians and people managers from all over the country, the conference aims to capture the vital role of managing human resources with sense and vision amidst the changes in the external environment. Shown at the signing were (from left) Josie Aguilar, Maxicare vice president for sales and marketing, Ernie Espinosa, PMAP president, James Maloney, Maxicare president and CEO, and Lina Aseneta, PMAP vice president and Conference chair.

SAN BEDA TOPS NESTLE PARTY SERIES

After touring 12 top schools in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, the Nestle Non-Stop Party Series III concluded with the awarding of the best party of the year won by the San Beda Student Council with its Ibiza Fizz Party at Rockwell. Seen receiving the cash prize is Kenneth Vicencio, external vice president for schoolyear 2001-2002 of the San Beda Student Council with David Quiec, brand manager, Ice Cream Marketing, Nestle Philippines.

Aboitiz Express co-sponsors 2002 World Environment Day essay writing contest

ABOITIZ Express, together with Hydro Electric Development Corp. (Hedcor) and the United Nations Information Center for the Philippines, are sponsoring the 2002 World Environment Day Essay Writing Contest.

The contest is part of the World Environment Month celebration this June and calls attention to environmental issues such as global warming and habitat loss. World Environment Day (WED) is commemorated each year on June 5. It is initiated by United Nations to stimulate worldwide awareness of the environment and enhance political attention and action from governments.

The theme of the 2002 WED is "Give earth a chance!" The UN General Assembly has also declared 2002 as the International Year of Mountains.

Open to all high school students nationwide, the contest will be carrying the theme: "The environmental benefits of clean and renewable energy." Essays will be judged on the basis of content (35 percent), organization (35 percent), style (20 percent), and mechanics (10 percent). Prizes at stake are P10,000 (1st prize), P7,000 (2nd prize) and P5,000 (3rd prize). Deadline for submission of entries is on Sept. 20. Awarding of winners will take place on Oct. 24 at a special reception to celebrate United Nations Day.

According to Aboitiz Express AVP and general manager Maribeth Marasigan, the contest is a good opportunity for students to further hone their writing skills as well as share their ideas on the conservation of our environment.

Aboitiz Express is the Philippines' leading overnight delivery service. Its extensive retail networks ensure fast and reliable delivery. The driving force behind Aboitiz Express is to provide customers with utmost convenience through quality service and value for your money.

Interested parties can get more information from any Aboitiz Express outlets nationwide, or e-mail inquiry@hedcor.com or log on to www.hedcor.com, or call (074) 444-7945 and 442-6080.

Finex sponsors investment forum

DTI Undersecretary and BOI vice chair and managing director Gregory L. Domingo will be the featured speaker during the Finex-DTI/BOI Investment Forum held today, July 24, 10 a.m. at the Bel-Air and North Forbes Rooms of the Hotel Inter-continental. Domingo will speak on the topic "Philippines: A Global Hub for ICT Enabled Services?" The public is invited free of charge. For inquiries, call the Finex secretariat at 811-4353, 811-4052 or 811-4397.

Bits & Clips

Business seminar for entrepreneurs

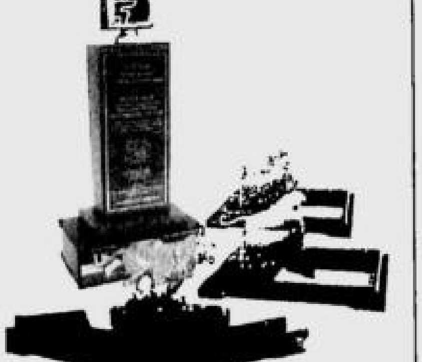
DUE TO public demand, multi-awarded scientist and businessman Col. Jerry A. Dango will be sharing once more his extensive knowledge in business and entrepreneurship in a business seminar on July 27 at De La Salle Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, entitled "Starting and Managing a Small Business Successfully." Dango is the president of the Enterpreneurs Institute of the Philippines and founder and past president of the Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines. He gained popularity with his invention, the Magiclip, and became a recipient of the Filipino Inventors Award. The seminar is a whole-day affair and will provide participants with a realistic approach in identifying, analyzing and exploiting opportunities. For particulars, call 722-9427, 721-2671 and 722-1606 and look for Monina or Mary Ann.

Soldiers, cops get dividends

THE AIR Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association Inc (Amwslai), through its chair and president Ret. PAF Col. Thaddeus P. Estalilla, announced the association started distributing P1.042 billion cash dividends to its members. The distribution of dividends started June 27 and continues up to July 26 at the Amwslai head office corner Boni Serrano and 18th Avenues, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City. Established 46 years ago, Amwslai is the second largest non-stock savings and loan association in the Philippines, with 36 branches and over 210,000 members from the AFP and PNP. Estalilla also announced that for the first semester of 2002, Amwslai posted a net income of P1.047 billion, the highest ever in its corporate history. He says the aggregate resources of the association have exceeded P12 billion.

Product Files

Pizza Hut reaps awards



PIZZA HUT Philippines capped 2001 with numerous awards. They earned the much-coveted Franchisee of the Year award from Pizza Hut International and was recognized for the best marketing and operations in the region. The awards were in recognition of the company's successful launch of new products and exceptional restaurant operations that resulted to a system-wide sales growth of 28 percent for 2001. To top it all, the Philippine team successfully defended its Asia Pacific Gold Medal Prize in the Pizza Hut Olympics Champs Challenge 2002, besting 18 countries and was cited locally by the Philippine National Consumers Council as the Most Outstanding Pizza Brand.

BREAKTHROUGH HEART DEVICE FROM JJMP

At the recent meeting of the Philippine Heart Association, Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines briefed cardiologists on its new Cypher Sirolimus-eluting Stent. Cypher is a breakthrough device that dramatically reduces reclogging of arteries in patients with coronary artery disease. Shown during the briefing are (from left) Hudson Pelayo, JJMP marketing assistant, Yohana of Johnson & Johnson Medical Indonesia, Patricia Tagaysay, franchise manager of JJMP, Dr. Dy Bun Yok of the Chinese General Hospital, Dr. Gregorio Martinez, head of the Cardiac Cath Lab of The Medical City, Dr. James Rankin from the Royal Perth Hospital in Australia, and Fermin Palileo, marketing director of JJMP.

Serenata
2002

TOP TRIUMPH DEALER AT 'SERENATA 2002'

Adelaida Yalung of Northern Luzon beams as she accepts a bouquet of flowers from Jun Yun and Alfredo Escueta, Triumph International Philippines Inc.'s direct sales manager and senior managing director, respectively, during Tipi's annual Direct Sales Recognition and Rewards program dubbed 'Serenata 2002' held recently at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila in Makati. Yalung, whose sales for 2001 exceeded P25 million, received a Platinum Award. For consistently achieving P1 million worth of sales each month for 2001, Yalung also earned the exclusive Millionaires' Club award. Founded in 1886 in Heubach, Germany, Triumph International is the world's leading brand in top quality intimate apparel

Filipino Seafarers Enjoy Global Supremacy— a legacy from Sen. Blas F. Ople

Filipino seafarers today dominate the seven seas, sailing under the flags of many nations. Capt. Benjamin Tañedo, former director of the National Seamen Board, estimates that Filipino sailors man up to one fourth of the total tonnage of global commercial shipping, **making the Philippines No. 1 in the world as a source of trained, educated and efficient seagoing manpower**.

This supremacy, however, is not permanent. It is being challenged by other countries with huge manpower surpluses such as China, India, Pakistan, the Ukraine and other Central Asian republics.

Together, the Filipino seafarers remit to their families an average of $300 million a year. The families of these seafarers have experienced economic miracles coming to their lives, sending children to college to become professionals or highly skilled technicians, building many small and medium enterprises, constructing modest but comfortable homes or the poor man's castles.

These economic miracles did not come about by accident or happenstance. These are the results of a policy enunciated by then Minister of Labor Blas F. Ople, who saw in the oil embargo of 1974 the opportunity to open up the global market for Filipino seafarers.

The Filipino seafarers take a lot of risks to serve their families and their country. Recently, for example, 23 Filipino seafarers including their captain, also Filipino, were captured and taken hostage by pirates and bandits in the waters off Somalia. Because of the international networking begun by Secretary Ople many years ago, these hostages were peacefully and successfully extricated from their captors by the timely and decisive action of Labor Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) with the help of London-based International Maritime Bureau and the PNI Club. The Spanish and German navies, cruising in the area, provided security for the Filipino crews and their vessel, which was bound for Indian ports from the Ukraine. This is a good example of international statesmanship, a legacy from Secretary Blas F. Ople.

For this reason, we warmly endorse the appointment of Senator Blas F. Ople as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He has made a difference before in the lives of millions of overseas workers, including and especially seaborne skilled manpower. He can do it again as Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

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(AMOSUP)**

CAPT. GREGORIO S. OCA

**Philippine Seafarers Union
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**Marine Engine Officers Association
of the Philippines (MEOAP)**

ENGR. LEONCIO SEMPIO

ADVT.

Court approves independent probe of WorldCom

LAWYERS from Weil, Gotshal & Anges, LLP, the firm that represents WorldCom Inc., enter US Bankruptcy Court 22 in New York. The company and all its US subsidiaries have filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 in the largest bankruptcy case in US history. AFP

NEW YORK—US bankruptcy Judge Arthur Gonzalez approved late Monday a Justice Department request to allow the appointment of an independent examiner to investigate bankrupt WorldCom Inc., the Wall Street Journal reported in its online edition, citing court documents.

The Justice Department's request was filed earlier Monday by US Trustee Carolyn Schwartz after approving $2 billion in financing to keep WorldCom operating as it reorganized its finances.

The request would give the examiner subpoena power to investigate the company's transactions. WorldCom has agreed with the request, according to court documents.

"We're going to get a guy who's disinterested and on the job and off we go," John Byrnes, a lawyer with the US Executive Office for Trustees, said after the hearing.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said an independent examiner would improve public confidence.

"This action will provide transparency to the process and enhance accountability," he said.

"In turn this should increase public confidence in the conduct of the case and help preserve value and protect the creditors and shareholders, including small creditors and those whose pension funds are invested in WorldCom.

"The Justice Department strongly urged this independent examiner presence as essential to providing public confidence in the handling of the largest bankruptcy case in history," Ashcroft said.

The use of an independent examiner is rare in bankruptcy cases, which typically include creditors as well as company representatives.

But an independent examiner was appointed in the Enron bankruptcy cases, where some contended that the major creditors may have been linked to dubious or fraudulent deals that led to the collapse of the energy firm.

The examiner "will add a pane of transparency to the proceeding," a US Executive Office for Trustees official said noting that there have been "a lot of allegations of malfeasance," but that the appointment of an examiner "does not imply any wrongdoing by WorldCom."

However, the examiner will be enabled "to examine potential instances of fraud," the official said.

The examiner would be empowered to hire professional legal and accounting staff to assist in the investigation, and a vetting process will ensure that the examiner has no conflicts of interest in representing the court. *AFP*

Optimism crumbles as markets dive

A TRADER pauses on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Investor confidence—already fragile in the wake of deep stock market drops and waves of accounting scandals—is cracking even further. REUTERS

NEW YORK—Investor confidence, already fragile in the wake of deep stock market drops and waves of accounting scandals, is cracking even further.

US investors are cashing out of stock mutual funds, delaying retirement as their savings vanish and questioning whether the stock market, which millions of people believed was their ticket to Easy Street as they jumped on the investing bandwagon in the late 1990s, is really the best place to park their money.

"Let's face it, Corporate America is not giving us a lot of reason to invest, to trust money with them," said Anthony Ogorek, a certified financial planner in Buffalo, New York.

If the stock sag continues over the long haul, "investors really may make a profound reassessment of the role of equities in their lives," he said.

The signs abound that many investors already have had enough.

With stocks plunging anew in July, a monthly gauge of investor optimism released on Monday shows confidence is at its lowest point since UBS and the Gallup Organization began compiling the index in 1996.

The index stands at 46 points, down from a reading of 72 in June and as high as 178 in January 2000, when stocks were flying high. The poll found that only 32 percent of investors were optimistic about the outlook for financial markets over the next year, a new low in the survey's history.

Also on Monday, mutual fund data tracker Lipper Inc., a unit of Reuters Group Plc, estimated that investors pulled a net $13.8 billion out of stock funds in June, the first monthly outflow since September 2001, when jittery investors yanked $29.3 billion following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Still, though, the latest outflow is only a fraction of the estimated $3 trillion in stock fund assets overall, meaning most investors are staying in.

But with stocks continuing to tumble, July is shaping up as another month of mutual fund outflows as more corporate blow-ups, weak corporate earnings reports and jitters over the economy have plagued the stock market.

The Dow Jones industrial average, trading at levels last seen in 1998, fell nearly 8 percent last week alone. And since the Fourth of July holiday, about $1.5 trillion in investor wealth has been erased from the stock market, based on the Wilshire 5000 Total Market Index.

That's all combined to give beaten-up investors a gloomy view of the market, said Thomas Grzymala, a certified financial planner in Alexandria, Virginia. *Reuters*

Palm, IBM ink deal to bust Microsoft

SAN JOSE, California—In a move to challenge Microsoft Corp., Palm Inc. is teaming up with IBM Corp. to jointly develop mobile applications for business users.

The two companies plan to announce an agreement on Tuesday to develop software programs, such as secure e-mail and IBM's Sametime instant messaging application, in the next version of IBM's WebSphere Everywhere Access business platform. The product, which will work specifically on Palm handheld devices, is slated for release this fall.

The first version of the WebSphere Everywhere platform, part of IBM's effort to extend its business services and products to mobile devices, was launched in April and runs on Microsoft's PocketPC-based devices.

Palm's vice president of strategic alliances, Judy Kirkpatrick, called the deal the "most significant to date" of Palm's efforts to strengthen its position among corporate buyers.

Tim Bajarin, an industry analyst with market research firm Creative Strategies, said the IBM agreement now "makes Palm a worthy competitor in enterprise accounts."

Palm, the world's leading maker of personal digital assistants, has been battling Microsoft to gain business customers beyond the usual "backdoor" method, in which employees would buy hand-helds on their own then get employers to reimburse them and integrate the devices into the company's network.

Bajarin and other analysts said the move was nothing short of critical for Palm.

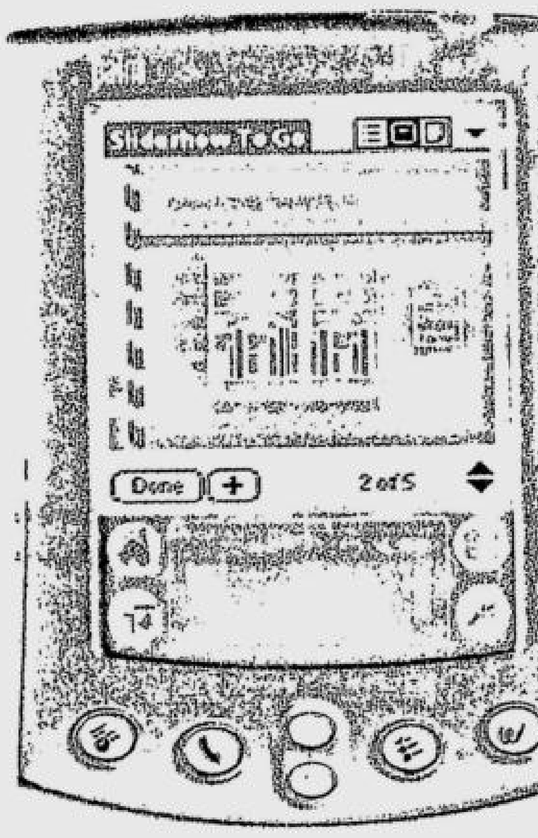
"It's something Palm had to do because they were losing credibility in the enterprise, and the only player that would give them credibility there is IBM," said Ken Dulaney, a Gartner Dataquest analyst who covers the handheld industry.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, but IBM officials said the Palm deal was more far-reaching than the existing one with Microsoft by including cross-licensing, marketing and joint-development provisions

AP

palm

palm-asia.com



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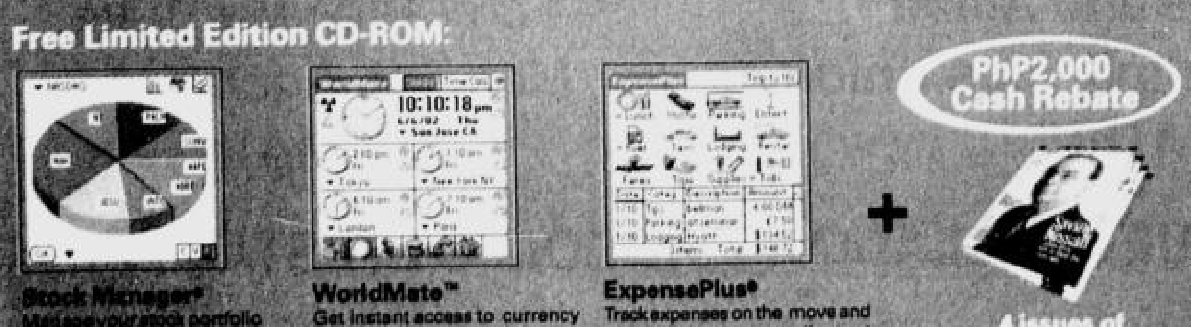

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Potential conflicts of interest rise at CalPERS

SACRAMENTO, California—Directors of the largest US public employee pension fund—responsible for minding the retirement investments of 1.3 million people—are involved in potential conflicts of interest that threaten to erode the fund's sterling image.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System, better known as CalPERS, has long had a reputation as one of the good cops of the securities business.

Earlier this year, the fund decided to yank its investments from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, citing concerns about financial transparency and labor conditions. Each year, CalPERS releases a list of companies it deems poorly managed, sometimes citing conflict of interest problems.

But documents examined by The Associated Press showed that CalPERS' 13-member board of administration had some of the same conflicts it had been lauded for flushing out elsewhere.

Five members of the board owned stocks also held by CalPERS in 2001, state records showed. Business ethics experts say this should never happen because board members could profit from advance knowledge about the fund's investment decisions.

In addition, three board members have received thousands of dollars in political campaign contributions from companies CalPERS invests in, raising questions about whether the board's decisions might be influenced. *AP*

Japan's economy likely contracted in April-June

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But export-fueled growth should resume later this year, they added, nudging GDP up in the business year to March 2003 and even higher in the year after that.

January-March GDP showed robust growth of 1.4 percent from the previous quarter—an annualized 5.7 percent that pulled the country from the grip of its worst recession since World War II.

But most economists had doubted the pace could be sustained.

The Cabinet Office will make broad changes to the data from the April-June quarter by including more supply-side figures and releasing the quarterly figures earlier. The forecasts in the Reuters poll were based on current calculation methods.

April-June GDP data will be released in late August. *Reuters*

Vietnam to become tech-savvy by 2005

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The plan, signed by Prime Minister Phan Van Khai Khai last week, details moves to boost IT capabilities within the Communist Party, the government and key state-owned enterprises, the Vietnam News reported.

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"The development of the IT sector, which is set to grow by 20 to 25 percent, is expected to facilitate a high and sustainable economic growth rate," it said.

Last week, Khai called for state-owned and private companies to shoulder a larger burden of Vietnam's economic reform program by producing high-quality, low-cost products in a bid to improve their competitiveness. *AFP*

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Governor Gray Davis signed into law the bill that other US states could well emulate and which had enraged the car powerful auto industry.

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"In time, in every state—and hopefully in every country—will act to protect future generations from the threat of global warming."

The law, which comes into force on Jan. 1 next year, requires the state Air Resources Board to develop greenhouse gas emission standards for vehicles starting with 2009 model cars and trucks, mostly using existing technology. *AFP*

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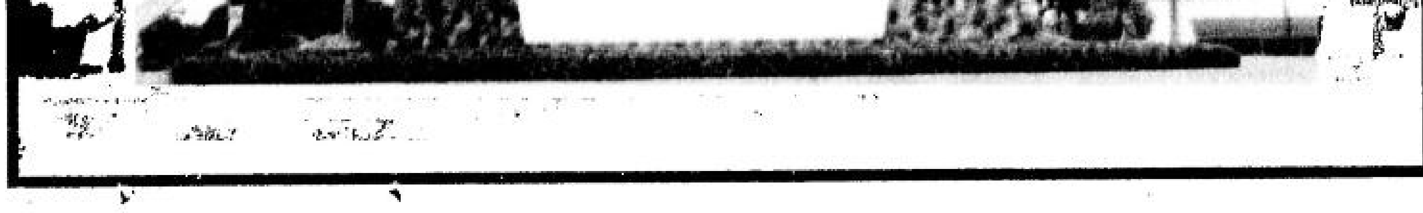
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IDEAL MAIDS YAYA 732-6750

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Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

Maid Yaya Boy Intl Cook 7572089

MAID YAYA NURSE MIDWIFE TUTOR 926-8984 433-1431

MAIDS/NBI 4216053

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

ANGEL'S HANDS MAIDS w/NBI&BI 4212938 8834270

RELIABLE MAIDS 4225186

TRUSTED Maid Cook 5508762

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS W/NBI & BI 421-3828

We have maid nurse mwife homecare 4128513 3664375

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 Lipat Bahay 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

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418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. 'frnt College T-6414589, 09175372340

64 383T sqm Pasig 10 mins to Ortigas T-6414589 09175372340

QUEZON CITY

Kamuning Nr T. Morato 450 sqm 0917-7541545

OTHER AREAS

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HOUSE & LOT

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MAKATI

DASMA 812m² 932-0114

PASIG

RUSHI KAPITOLYO PASIG VIC 631-9792 / 687-0963

QUEZON CITY

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Nova P6T/mo 11yrs 9390299

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OTHER AREAS

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Hurry! 95 units left 0917-9114250 Luz

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LOT

QUEZON CITY

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204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(in 2 months)
Bal 5 yrs. Mo. Interest
HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB
150 - 300 FA 200-300 LA @
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PROVINCIAL

Tagaytay Comm Lot Infrt. Mahogany Market 580. 594 498 sqm # 0917-6948058

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

PASIG

SACRIFICE SALE!!!
CONDO UNIT, New
In Renaissance 3000 Tower
Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center
3 Bedroom, Maid's Room,
4 Toilet and Bath, 2 Parkslots
14th Floor, 227 sq.m.
Call Jho Tel. 723-8408; 724-4411 to 15

LOT

MAKATI

PROPERTY FOR SALE
Lot - 355 sq.m.
House - 53.25 sq.m.
Address - 3824 Mascardo Street
Tejeros, Makati City
Contact person
Nita del Rosario
Tel. 897-8808 loc. 229

PROVINCIAL

TANAUAN, BATANGAS 1000m '@P2t good 4 gas stn 801-6251

TANZA, CAVITE 1,024m² P600th clean title 801-6251

OTHER AREAS

200&100 sqm PRG12 Molino Bacoor Cavite Dina 5325779 or Rosie 046-4772074

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

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Only P9+++/mo.or 48 mos No Int
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MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3,320M up 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

★Tektite West 109m² 4M 4121825 09177914366

★TektiteEast 268m²@28T 7.5M 4121825 09177914366

SKYWAY TT Nr. Valleverde 5yrs 0%Int. 671-2049 / 9651

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

Rush Landsdale 45.34sqm FFurnish P2M 09202201489

SCT CASTOR NR MORATO 3br 3tb 2cg 3.5M 6873372

Speaker Perez 4BR P7M neg FA350 nr Retiro 2588019

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ZAMBALES AREAS
Call 0919-3279260

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MANGO Farm 09164896968 Nol'

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

1BR NR P.GIL 5634007•5642878

QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB 12T Tel 7214304

CUBAO Female P3.8 4381480

New Studio Diliman QC 8156172/8173722

HOUSE

ALABANG

MALATE 1,2,3 BR UNITS 1.8M UP 0918-9132396

QUEZON CITY

1BR FLAT SEMIFURN W/MDS RM CARPRK 10T 7210789

T SORA DFV QC 2BR 1TB P9T/MO 7312110 / 7312189

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

PASIG

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

new studio/2BR/clinic/OFC P8T up no association dues 1672 Dian St., Mkti. nr Buendia. Call Rose 843-9418 or 536-9509

OFC Unit Herrera Twr nr Ayala Ave for Lease 899-6632

Palm Village Nr. Rockwell 3BR 21T/mo. 0917-3955738

RES Unit KWOOD Mktl 3BR3TB maid qr prkg 899-6632

MANILA

3BR 3sty nr. LSalle 8992148

QUEZON CITY

Kanlaon St nr Lourdes Church 3BR 3TB P18.5T 7312110/89

STUDIO UNIT Infront of Ateneo & Miriam College Call Nona Adams 433-1038 Talk &Text # 0918-7984593

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Ldy Mkt 8950134 / 8907136

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nr DLSU w/food P6.5T 8992148

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KIA

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TOYOTA

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Contact Persons: Ms. Linda Nacianceno or Mr. Joe Hilario
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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

FOR SALE
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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

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Q.C. Br. 4251391 9262314

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

CHEAP VAN 8254058 8261045

HI ACE VANS 8252988

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

MB100 643-7387; 0917-9623141

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B/SELL EDUC'L 8061574

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•RELIABLE MAIDS 8330946/47

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Bilcian allow comm 1372 Quezon Ave. T-3736692 Gala

OFC ADM STAF 9134470 KIM

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ALAY LAKAD FOUNDATION GRADUATE OF ANY SOCIAL SCIENCE OR BUSINESS COURSE, EXPERIENCE IN PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AND/OR ANY OFFICE WORK PREFERRED NOT OVER 35 YEARS OLD, MALE FEMALE GOOD STARTING SALARY. APPLICANTS SUBMIT BIODATA WITH PHOTO AT 1680 BENITEZ CORNER MALVAR STS MALATE MANILA OR CALL 5226134 / 5231539

★ ADMIN STAFF (20) 9134470 0917-5033825 Ms. POWERS

OFC STAFF 09165218635 Porsh

OFC STAFF M/F 18-45 W/W/O EXP 9134470 L4 ROLLY

•Urgent Ofc Personnel 14-45 w/ w/o exp 9134470 Zeny

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
• AUG. 08, 2002 •
All unredeemed articles up to March 1-31, 2002 in the following branches:
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
•Pinatubo St. Mand 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre St. 11AM
•109 Dela Rosa St Mkt 1PM
•108 Legaspi St Mkti 2PM
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

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BAZAAR Tiange Forbes Park - Call 7137030•7137231

BROKERS/AGENTS
Libis QC (PO Box 1604 MCPO 1255 Mkti City)

CAP EDUC PLAN
Monet 2528373 • 09174037776

Sales Commis ns 364-7559

MANILA GAS CORPORATION/INTER-ISLAND GAS SERVICE INC.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be advised that Manila Gas Corporation (MGC) and its subsidiary INTER-ISLAND GAS SERVICE INC., (IIGSI) had stopped its LPG operation as of December 31, 2001. Any use of their LPG brands "M-GAS" and "ROCKGAS" in the market are unauthorized. MGC and IIGSI shall assume no responsibility and liability for any consequence that may arise from unauthorized use of the above LPG brands.

Manila Gas Corporation
Inter-Island Gas Serv. Inc.

(PDI--July 23 & 24, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALIDA VERGEL DE DIOS-CACNIO was settled extrajudicially by her heirs before Grajo T. Albano, Notary Public in and for Quezon City, per Doc. No. 139, Page No. 28; Book No. II, Series of 1998 (PDI-July 24, 31 and Aug. 7, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Loss of ACR#181209 issued in favor of STEPHEN ZENZ, a German national on 12-10-99 issued by the [illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

Free Bible Course by mail from USA. Please write your name & address to WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL, Dept. PHP314, PO Box 2169, Cedar Park, Texas 78613. www.wbschool.org For prayers & counseling text. 0917-2560694, Email: mission@info.com.ph

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the [illegible]

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of Case Pump with a total approved budget of **P1,444,450.00** for the Physical Plant Maintenance & Services Office (PPMSO), Laboratory Materials & Equipment with a total approved budget of P1,218,000.00 for the Institute of Mathematical Sciences & Physics (IMSP) and Hospital Equipment (Rebid) with a total approved budget of P1,051,950.00 for the University Health Service (UHS), UPLB, College, Laguna.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO).

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	**July 31-Aug. 9**/8:30 am-5:00 pm	SPMO
Pre-Bid Conference	**Aug. 16, 2002**, Fri./10:00 am	SPMO
Opening/submission of bids	**Aug. 23, 2002**, Fri./10:00 am	SPMO

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form, amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/parts, catalogues/brochures/other literatures, etc.); and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Supply and Property Management Office, UPLB.

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the UPLB. The UPLB likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **DR. TERESITA M. ESPINO**
Chair, PBAC

(PDI--July 24 & 25, 2002)

MAT/LA12259/2002 (BHI)
FCMC 2946/2002

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 2946 OF 2002

BETWEEN

JEANILYN T. RIVERA — Petitioner
And
EDUARDO E. ARCILLA — Respondent

A DIVORCE PETITION HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE UNDER-MENTIONED EDUARDO E. ARCILLA late of 23 Ubas Street, Verdant, Las Piñas, Metro Manila, Philippines who may apply at the Family Court Registry at M2 Wanchai Law Court, No. 12 Harbour Road, Hong Kong for a copy of the Petition. If within one month he has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.

Registrar

(PDI – July 24, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG LUPON SA MGA YAMANG TUBIG
(National Water Resources Board)
8th Floor, NFA Building, Epifanio delos Santos Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 920-2724; 928-2365; 920-2793
Fax Nos. 920-2641
Telefax Nos. 920-2641; 920-2834; 928-4702
URL address: http:\www.nwrb.gov.ph
E-mail address: rdm@nwrb.gov.ph

LAGUNA PROPERTIES HOLDINGS, INC.
Applicant
x-----------------------------------x
Case No. 02-807

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, in this case requests for the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain waterworks system within San Isidro Village, Phase I and II, located at Tabangao, Batangas City, with authority to charge the following rates:

CONSUMPTION BLOCK	PROPOSED RATES
0-10 cu.m.	P 12.00/cu.m.
11-20 cu.m.	12.50/cu.m.
21-30 cu.m.	13.00/cu.m.
31-40 cu.m.	13.50/cu.m.
41 and above	14.00/cu.m.

This application will be heard by the Board on **August 9, 2002 at 9:30 in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City** at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, Applicant shall publish this notice once in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in Batangas City and serve by personal delivery or registered mail copy of the application and this notice to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing copy of the same to the Applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file his opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of his right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidences submitted.

Witness the Honorable Chairman of the National Water Resources Board this 11th day of July 2002.

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO D. MATEO**
Executive Director

(PDI – July 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Manila
CITY GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE

July 22, 2002

INVITATION TO BID

The City General Services Office of Manila invites all accredited suppliers of the City and other interested parties and if not pre-qualified, to apply for prequalification and if prequalified, to bid and submit proposals for the supply and delivery of the one (1) year medicines requirements of its hospitals, Gat. Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center, Ospital ng Tondo, Ospital ng Sampaloc, Ospital ng Maynila and the Manila Health Department.

Bid documents may be obtained from the City General Services Office starting **July 22, 2002** during regular office hours, located at the Second Floor of the Barangay Bureau Building, A. Villegas Street, Manila. (Tel. Nos. 528-0642-43).

Sealed bids shall be submitted on or before **August 6, 2002 at 9:00 AM,** when they will be formally opened in the presence of the Bidding Committee and the contending bidders.

(Sgd.) **JAIME P. VALENCIA, JR.**
OIC, City General Services Office

(PDI – July 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

SEC ADVISORY

July 17, 2002

In response to numerous inquiries and complaints which the Commission has received, the Commission wishes to inform the public that the following "corporations", namely:

1. **ACCESS CREDIT & DEVELOPMENT GROUP**
2. **AVG GROUP OF COMPANIES**
3. **MMC INVESTMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION**
4. **MULTITEL INVESTMENT CORPORATION**
5. **MULTITEL INVESTORS CORPORATION**
6. **MULTITEL LENDING CORPORATION**
7. **PHIL-ASIA LENDING INVESTORS, INC.**
8. **ZURICH INVESTMENT GROUP**

ARE NOT duly registered with this Commission as corporations and therefore, do not have any juridical personality nor authority to engage in any activity such as investment consultancy, investment taking, lending activities, and trading in securities.

The Commission also wishes to inform the investing public that the following corporations **DO NOT** have the necessary secondary franchise to operate as lending investors, namely:

1. **AVG LENDING INVESTORS, INC.**
2. **BGA LENDING INVESTORS, INC.**
3. **COIN'S ACCOUNT LENDING SERVICES, INC.**
4. **RED DRAGON LENDING CORPORATION**

The public is warned of possible serious misrepresentation by these corporations.

For guidance and information.

(632) 726-0931 to 39
www.sec.gov.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

OBITUARIES

Atty. QUIRINO "Quing" P. CASTELO

February 17, 1934 - July 22, 2002
Of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija and Legaspi City

[Regional Director (retired), Public Attorney's Office, Department of Justice]

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 22, 2002

His loving wife **Nora Obias**; children **Celso & Ma. Elena, Carlos (†), Quirino Jr. & Rhublyn Grace, Carmelo & Vivian, Ma. Corazon & Joey,** and **Conrado**; grandchildren **Chinik, Christian, Chucky, Lala, Dada, Chantal,** and **Cacai**; brothers and sisters **Jesus, Josefina (†)** and **Romualdo (†), Maximino & Cynthia, Leandro Jr., Gertrudes, Albina (†), Lourdes Celeste, Angela & Reynaldo, Rodrigo & Anabelle**; nephews and nieces and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Oro, Legaspi City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 27, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at the Bicol Memorial Park, Legaspi City, after the Mass at the St. Rafael Church.

In Loving Memory
Twenty Second Death Anniversary
of

RECIO M. GARCIA

Who passed away on July 24, 1980

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today:

Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Intramuros, Manila	- 7:30 a.m.	**Nativity of the Lord Parish** 151 Ermin Garcia Street, Cubao, Quezon City	- 6:30 a.m.
Blessed Sacrament Fathers & Brothers 1099 Sta. Cruz, Manila	- 6:30 a.m.	**Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish** Mindanao Avenue Extension Tandang Sora, Quezon City	- 6:00 a.m.
Christ the King 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard, Quezon City	- 6:30 a.m.	**Santuario de San Pedro Bautista** 1104 SFDM, Quezon City	- 6:30 a.m.
Christ the King Project 7, Veterans Village, Quezon City	- 7:30 a.m.	**San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica** Binondo, Manila	- 8:15 a.m.
Espiritu Santo Parish Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila	- 7:00 a.m.	**St. John the Baptist Parish** Quiapo, Manila	- 7:00 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish 39 Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City	- 7:00 a.m.	**Sta. Teresita Parish** 43 Kanlaon Street, Quezon City	- 7:00 a.m.
Mount Carmel Shrine New Manila, Quezon City	- 7:00 a.m.	**Sto. Niño Parish Shrine** Bukidnon Street, Bago Bantay, Quezon City	- 6:30 a.m.
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Kanlaon corner Retiro Street, Quezon City	- 7:30 a.m.	**Society of the Divine Word (S.H.P.)** 28 Scout Ybardolaza Street, Kamuning, Quezon City	- 7:00 a.m.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

Michael G. Bugante

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 22nd of July 2002 at the age of 46.

His wife **Filipinas "Filu" Lubrica Bugante**; children **Jan Isaac, Katrina, Karl** and **Mark Rommel**; parents **Felino (†)** and **Dorothy**; brother and sisters and their families **Marilyn** and **Henry Francisco (Julie Ann, Paulo, Ginno, Mae, AJ, Maika** and **Crissa), Melchor** and **Malou (Michelle, Mark** and **Iggy), Marissu, Mary June, Mary Jane** and **Ibn (Ian Jash), Mercy Grace**; parents-in-law **Jose (†)** and **Carlota Lubrica**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Bong** and **Percy, Ida** and **Dick, Marvi** and **Henry, Joel** and **Yehu, Pena, Bits** and **Yodi, Jojo** and **Minda, Joey** and **Divine,** and their families; uncles, aunts, cousins and other relatives; friends and those whose lives he touched, request that your prayers commend him to the Lord's restful embrace.

His remains lie in state at their residence IB 63, Kilometer 6, Betag, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Interment is tentatively scheduled on Saturday, July 27, 2002.

"My home is God Himself; Christ brought me there.
I place myself within his mighty arms;
He took me up and safe from all alarms
He bore me where no foot but His has trod,
Within the Holiest at home with God, and
Had me dwell in Him, rejoicing there.
O Holy place, O Home divinely fair!
And we, God's little ones, abiding there."

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2002

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Dante Santisteban Sta. Ana

18 March 1926 - 23 July 2002

passed away peacefully
in the grace of the Lord.

His loving wife Paula Semiramis Santos
children
Filomeno III and Ma. Anicia (née Manalang)
Norma
Dante Jr.
Ma. Paulita and Alberto Sales
Teodoro and Ma. Elisa (née Custodio)
Rosanna
grandchildren
Rafael Vicente, Alfonso Luis, Joaquin Lorenzo
Maria Ysabel and Cara Gabriel
brother, sisters-in-law and spouses
Augusto and Virginia (née Leon) Sta. Ana (✝)
Paula Carolina (✝) and Armando J. Malay
Paula Isis and Telesforo L. Umali
Paula Nephthys and Jose Taton
Paula Hypathia (✝) and Vicente G. Ereñeta (✝)
Paula Athena and Jorge G. Davide
Paula Isabel and Oscar A. Frial (✝)
other relatives and friends
request the pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 17 P. Gomez, Pasig City.
Holy Mass will be celebrated on 25 July 2002, Thursday, at 10 a. m.
at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church in Pasig.
Interment will follow immediately at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, kindly make donations to the
Foundation for the Care and Upliftment of Special Children.

MGEN FELIPE C GAERLAN AFP

Inspector General, AFP

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 20, 2002 at the age of 54.

His remains lie in state at the Veterans Center Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

Necrological services will be held on July 24, 2002 at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius, Camp Aguinaldo after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 25, 2002 at 12:00 noon, Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

VERONICA RODRIGUEZ AMAR

of Puerto Princesa City
Peacefully joined her Creator on Monday, July 22, 2002 at the age of 89.

Her loving husband **Antonio** (†); children **Alette**, **Joel** (†), **Wilma** (†), **Leo**, **Donald**, **Anthony**, **Brenda**, **Glady**, **Margie** and **Eric**; children-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapel, #6 Carigma Street, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 25, 2002 at 10:00 AM at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"From darkness let the light shine!"

Genesis 1:3

We shall forever miss our loving
Nanay and Ima who served
the Lord so well in her children
and grandchildren

DOMINGA TAN CHIONGLO

August 4, 1909 - July 21, 2002

*has joined our beloved Papa, **Jose Chionglo, Sr.** at the age of 92.*

She was Nanay to: **Josefa** (†), **Eligia** (†) and **Feliciano** (†) **Tan**, **Violeta** and **Felino** (†) **Rodriguez**, **Margarita**, **Roberto** and **Esmeña Uy** (†), **Norma** and **Cesar Sia**, **Dalisay** and **Benito Sy**, **Ligaya** (†), **Lolita** (†), **Carmelo (Mel)**, **Teresita** and **Danilo Franco**, **Elizabeth**, and **Jose, Jr.**, **Modesto** (†) and **Sabina Alzona**, **Honorio** (†), and **Rosita** and **Vicente** (†) **Uy**.

She was a loving and solicitous Ima to her 40 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Her body lies in state at Imperial Chapel, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City and will be moved to Popular Memorial Chapel, Lucena City on Saturday, July 27, 2002 at 8 a.m.

Interment will be at the family mausoleum at St. Ferdinand Memorial Park on Sunday, July 28, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Please join us in common prayer for the
eternal repose of her soul.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

Psalm 23

JULIETA MANIAUL RAMOS

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 22, 2002 at the age of 78.

Her husband **Severino Ramos**; daughter **Gracia Ramos-Bautista**; and grandchildren **Gladys** and **Ian Bautista**; her sisters **Luz**, **Rebecca** and **Josefina**; other relatives, and all those whose lives she has touched, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her other sisters, now deceased, were **Pacita**, **Mercedes** an[illegible]**ninada**.

Her remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Church, 1368 Taft Avenue corner Apacible Street, Manila (in front of the Philippine General Hospital).

Interment will be announced later.

On the
Fourth Death Anniversary
of our beloved

BENILDO GOZAR HERNANDEZ

who passed away on July 24, 1998,

the family requests relatives and friends to remember him in prayer. Masses will be offered today for the eternal repose of his soul at the following churches:

St. Ignatius Village Chapel, SIV, Q.C.	6:30 p.m.
Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Q.C.	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Church, Bongabon, Oriental Mindoro	6:00 a.m.
St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Murphy	12:15 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati	7:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m./6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	7:00 a.m./6:00 p.m.
Greenbelt Chapel, Makati	7:00 a.m./6:00 p.m.
Asian Institute of Management, Makati	12:30 p.m.

Where have all our youth leaders gone?

IN BARANGAY 596, Manila, there was only one candidate for six Sangguniang Kabataan Council elective seats while the one candidate for SK chairman was unopposed. For a community teeming with children and teens, there were only 27 registered voters and less than that voted. I went around two schools in Bacood last Monday and I noticed that there were very few youngsters in the voting precincts. I wonder how the youngsters in other baranggays fared?

Where are our young leaders? Where have they all gone? Gone to the malls? Busy texting? Glued to the television set? Couldn't care less what happened to their peers in the baranggay, in the country? I asked one teener and her answer was, "*Wala namang mangyayari dyan. Wala namang power. Wala namang kita. Aksaya ng oras.*"

Making a difference

In the book The Art of Possibility (Harvard Business School Press), author Benjamin Zander quoted his dying father still making a paradigm-shifting joke, "There is no such thing as bad weather only inappropriate clothing."

Okay, let us grant that SK and being elected or appointed to a position of responsibility does not a young leader make. Maybe, our young leaders are not lovestruck with politics and political leadership. Maybe they believe in simply making small ripples in the vast pond that is their community or in the bigger stream that is our country. Which brings to mind the story of a young woman happily throwing back starfishes to the sea. The Zanders couple retold the story succinctly, thus:

Strolling along the edge of the sea, a man catches sight of a young woman who appears to be engaged in a ritual dance. She stoops down, then straightens to her full height, casting her arm out in an arc. Drawing closer, he sees that the beach around her is littered with starfish, and she is throwing them one by one into the sea. He lightly mocks her: "There are stranded starfish as far as the eye can see, for miles up the beach. What difference can saving a few of them possibly make?" Smiling, she bends down and once more tosses a starfish out over the water, saying serenely, "It certainly makes a difference to this one."

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos-Aquino

Being a contributor

So if an SK elective position is not anymore a preferred leadership style, what is the alternative, albeit appropriate, leadership clothing for our future emperors? How else can our young leaders practice and further hone their leadership competencies and be ready to inherit and take charge of the governance of business, religious and civic organizations, government, learning institutions and others later?

To paraphrase Benjamin Zander, how can our young leaders redefine their non-involvement-in-politics stance as a place of "contribution" rather than an arena for their success? He says that in this new "game of contribution" it is not as though the question of where you stand disappears, or how important you are, or how much money you hope to make." He suggests that for the moment, these concerns should be packed away in a box and best left untouched.

Being involved

Dear young leader, for the moment, declare yourself to be a "contribution" and throw yourself into life as someone who makes a difference, accepting that you may not understand how or why. For the moment, imagine yourself to be that young lady, smiling and serene, moving in a pattern of a dance. For the moment, consider life revealed as a place to contribute and you as contributors. Zander writes not because you have done a measurable amount of good, but because there is a story to tell.

Ben Zander believes that when you play the "contribution game," it is never a single individual who is transformed. He says naming yourself and others as a "contribution" produces a shift away from self-concern and engages you in a relationship with others that is an arena for making a difference. "Rewards in the contribution game are of a deep and enduring kind, though less predictable than the trio of money, fame, and power that accrue to the winner in the success game." As good karma, you never know what they will be, from where and when they will come.

I agree with you young friends, you don't need to be elected to serve. What is more important is that you become a "contributor" rather than a mere politician. What will be alarming is if this non-involvement becomes apathy. Do it your way. Just do it, anyway.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Barangay 596 reelectionist Chairman Jimmy "Bonjing" Fernandez and Councilmen Rey Duran, Jun Bazar, Ver Burgos, Mitz Rosendo, Pacita Macalinga and Ace Rayos. This is a powerhouse team of "contributors." Now we need everybody in our community to think of ourselves as "contributors" instead of "recipients," to throw back, at least, one starfish to the sea and make a difference.

REMINDER. Have you registered for the special back-to-back workshops of our columnists Bob Rosner and *moi* on August 15 and 16? Working Wounded columnist Bob will be discussing the topics "12 Steps to Better Bossing" and "Managing Against the Odds" while I will share some thoughts on "Innovating for Leading Edge Management" and Innovating for Peak Performance." This will be on August 15 at the Equitable PCIBank Tower, Makati City. From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club on August 16, get lost in a fun-filled maze of possibilities at the Innovation Camp led by yours truly.

Optimus Managers and Advisors (phone no. 414-0186) and any Inquirer Classified Ads branch will be happy to accept your registration.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.com)

Handle office squabbles using maternal wisdom

WHEN my mother was my age (mid-30s), she already had six kids, held a job as editor-in-chief of an arts and culture magazine, and made the best pumpkin pie in the world. My daughter's jaw dropped when I told her this bit of fact last night. Being the only child, she could not imagine having to fight five other siblings for my attention. It was hard enough getting me to attend all her school activities, squeezing playtime at night, and clearing up long stretches of what we call "togetherness time." How did my mom manage with six kids?

My mom has a quick answer: "First, I had well-trained *yayas*. Second, I never allowed my kids to make *sumbong* (to tell on each other)."

That was true. I was the only girl in a family of five boys. Our house was a constant riot. There was bickering, fighting, and rough play 24 by 7. Particularly on hot summer afternoons, tempers flared, tears rolled, screams were heard, but my mom didn't step in. She expected us to settle our own differences. She did not want to spend our precious quality time just settling fights.

Preserving sanity

Part of it was to preserve her sanity. She told me that she saw her reflection in a mirror one day, and she looked like she had just come out of a war. In a way, she just did; she had put herself in the middle of one boys' quarrel too many. It was time to stop and she did. A larger part of it, though, was the conviction that we all had to learn to fend for ourselves. She wanted her kids to grow up as leaders, for that they had to be trained to handle conflict and dissent; they had to grapple with coordination issues and discovering the win-win situation on their own.

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

Maternal wisdom

I thought of my mother's child-rearing wisdom as I sat in yet another screaming match of a meeting at our office. Again, tempers flared, tears rolled, screams were heard. The dynamics in the office are not much different from our childhood battles: the fights still erupt over a limited resource (from fighting over toys, we're now bickering about limited manpower, money, and time). I'm sure this scene is replicated in millions of other boardrooms, town meetings, public hearings, and playgrounds all over the world.

I'm convinced my mother's strategy would work in all arenas of debate: if there is no opportunity for *sumbong* (for telling on each other), there will be no reward for finger-pointing. We will be forced to settle our issues not on the level of pinning blame, but on the more constructive level of finding win-win solutions. It will not be a matter of who the boss believes or who the boss sides with in the argument. Instead, it will boil down to what systems and procedures can be developed to make sure the limited resource is made available to all.

This is where we have to catch our motherly tendencies. If we allow our maternal instincts to lead us in the boardroom, we could come in like take-charge mamas putting ourselves in the middle of the crossfire, taking the hits, pacifying the hot tempers, stopping the shouting, but not getting any solutions done. Or, we might come in like a mom on a rampage, triggered by all the finger-pointing going around, we may be tempted to get into the blaming game ourselves. In the end, it will be everybody's fault, but there will be no solutions arrived at.

Looking for solutions

On those hot summer afternoons when the fighting was at its most bitter in our household, my mother stood by the sidelines, let the arguments erupt, but ended every quarrel with questions: How can we make sure this does not happen again? What can we start doing today to make sure this does not happen tomorrow?

She did not impose the solutions on her children; we had to come up with these ourselves. The result was always an exercise on drawing up systems and procedures, a skill we carry to this day.

Remember that next time you're in a heated argument in the office, with your kids, or with your spouse: *walang sumbungan*, don't pin blame, get to the solution.

You can pick up more points on how to build a no-blame culture in your home and office in the current issue of Metro Working Mom, with Maricel Soriano on the cover, still available at the newsstands.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom. Send you thoughts, comment, and experiences to workingmom@pinoycentral.com.ph)

BREAKFAST CHAT

What to do when people resist change

By Ricky B. Garcia

THE ONLY aspect that will never change in business is change. It is one of the major challenges in modern business life.

In last Monday's People at Work segment in Studio 23's "Breakfast," program host Bam Aquino interviewed Ms Gigie Penalosa, president and COO of VCP Trading International Corporation, on ways in which managers and employees can successfully cope with change. Below is the gist of the interview:

PAW: What drives change in an organization?

Gigie: Change in the organization is driven by changes in market conditions, technology, business environment, and the changing mindset of people themselves.

PAW: What are the common concerns of people when change is introduced in their team or organization?

Gigie: Usually, people fear change and its possible threats to their jobs, status and security. In short, invasion of their comfort zone.

PAW: How do you help employees turn fear of change into confidence and cooperation?

Gigie: First, it is important that the leaders and managers of an organization clearly identify, define and communicate to the employees the changes being envisioned. This will enable everyone to understand and absorb its impact on the workplace, thus, establishing an atmosphere of shared vision and common direction for everyone in the workplace. Second, we need to involve and empower the employees in this process by providing them with the necessary tools and resources to effectively implement the change. It is likewise important that the right people and talents are tapped for its effective implementation. Third, the change process must be done at a manageable rate and at a realistic level.

PAW: What are the common mistakes of managing workplace change?

Gigie: The most common mistakes are absence of clear-cut definition of purposes and objectives, inadequate resources and poor lines of communications between the management and employees. When this happens, people resist change, because they feel that the structure is not well-constructed for an effective implementation.

PAW: How do you prepare an organization for change especially in strong cultures?

Gigie: The differences in cultures must first be identified, recognized, understood and accepted. A fusion of these diversified cultures can be made by keeping best practices and eliminating bad and ineffective ones.

PAW : What are the skills necessary for managers to lead their employees through change process?

Gigie: Commitment and consistency of purpose, leadership by example, a good perception and ability to empower people, and resiliency.

PAW : Any proven techniques you can share to help managers and employees adapt to change?

Gigie: Be honest and transparent about your objectives and goals. Know your people, empower them and strengthen your links with open and effective communication lines. Strive to work within a realistic, sustainable and attainable framework.

Can we both have jobs, run our household?'

From p. B14

on a daily and a weekly basis can address the 80 percent of the areas where you need to deliver results. Meeting together as a family, we realized the vital fews daily are our evening meal, the sweeping and dusting on a daily basis, the watering of the garden plants, and taking out the garbage. We decided to simplify breakfast. Lunch is taken in school. Weekends are for the weekly marketing for food, sanitizing all the rooms and bathrooms and preparing the menus for the week.

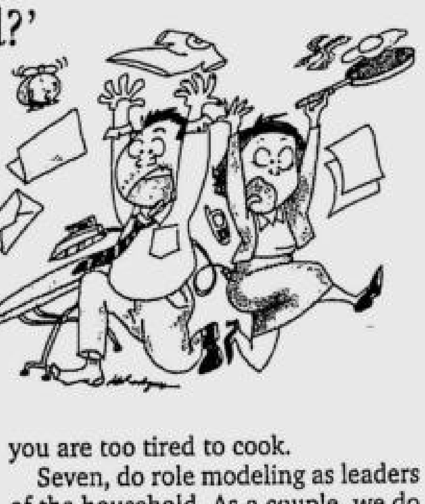
Second, follow the principle of organization and delegation. Your children are old enough to do household chores. But make working at home exciting and fun. In our household, we call it the "Life Skills Program." Everyone is accountable for keeping the house presentable, clean and comfortable. We distributed the chores according to age, capacity and work or school schedules. The youngest do the lightest work and the elder ones the more difficult work. For example, our eldest son, prepares breakfast and all sandwiches to go before six in the morning. His classes are in the afternoon and evenings. My eldest daughter cooks meals on certain days when she does not have meetings with her youth organizations. My husband and I handle the cooking on weekends.

Third, practice 5S or good housekeeping. The most important guide is to have the right place for every piece of furniture and objects like utensils. All personal things are kept in bedrooms and not to be left in common areas like the living, dining and terrace areas. Then, when one messes up anything, he or she cleans up immediately.

Fourth, create support systems such as having menus good for two months to ensure a good combination of meat, fish, vegetables and fruits. Create variety so children do not get bored with the food. You can have a "chef for the day" who is responsible for doing the cooking. Then again you may have to support the children with cooking lessons and demonstrations. Make housework fun.

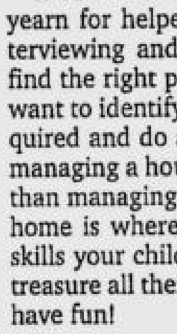
Fifth, set up an incentive system. In our family, we have made the use of a car on certain days or the chance to go out on weekends as incentives for doing their duties faithfully and well. But remember, children may slacken on their duties, so be patient and persevere in reminding them. Remember you need 21 days so that an activity is converted into a habit. Then you can let go.

Sixth, go for time savers. For example, I discovered that buying my meat, fish and vegetables from the supermarket instead of the traditional market saves time. I am guaranteed quality fresh food at a slightly higher price. The difference is worth the hassle you avoid. Or make a call to someone in your neighborhood. By the way, this is a good technique if you are too tired to cook.



Seven, do role modeling as leaders of the household. As a couple, we do our part on weekends. I realize working in the house is tiring yet very fulfilling. It is a good break from the type of work we do on ordinary days.

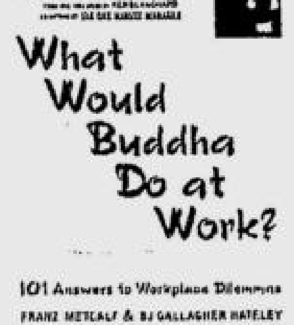
If after all my pep talk, you still yearn for helpers, then use your interviewing and negotiation skills to find the right people. You might also want to identify the competencies required and do a job profile. You see, managing a household is no different than managing an office. Except that home is where the heart is and the skills your children acquire they will treasure all their lives. Good luck and have fun!



(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

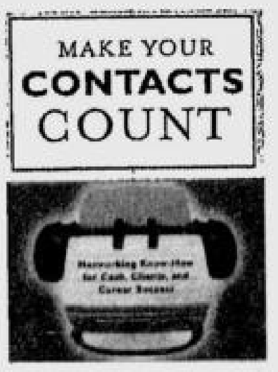
EDITOR'S PICKS

These books are available at Power Books.


What Would Buddha Do at Work?
101 Answers to Workplace Dilemmas
FRANZ METCALF & BJ GALLAGHER HATELEY

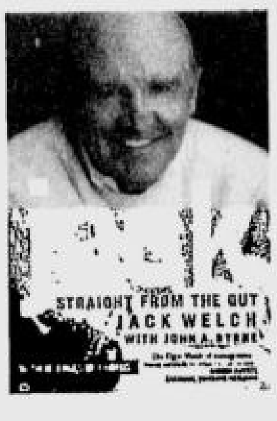
What Would Buddha Do at Work?

Who says that Buddha is only for Buddhists? In this book, authors Franz Metcalf and BJ Gallagher Hateley use the teachings of Buddha to help people in the workplace deal with common work problems. The book explains how Buddha would handle these problems and how Buddhist teachings can guide employees, managers and executives in their work dilemmas. The book offers real-world solutions that can enhance work life, no matter what one's religious or spiritual background is.



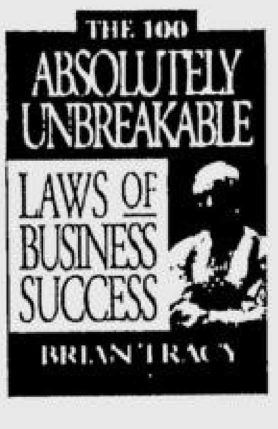
Make Your Contacts Count

Networking is one of the essential skills a career person must have. It is the key to keep your career moving or your business humming. This book discusses techniques and strategies to maximize the quality of your professional network. It provides self-assessment tests, guides for creating a workplace contact map, and loads of quizzes, checklists and sample conversations. Authors Anne Baber and Lynne Waymon also teach how to master the six stages of networking and improve one's follow-up skills.



Jack Straight from the Gut

In this autobiography, Jack Welch traces the challenges he met in his younger years and how he used these to succeed later on in life. As CEO of General Electric for 20 years, Welch learned how to "get out of the pile" and worked his way up to becoming the top man of the company. He also discusses the crises that GE met during the "Neutron Jack" years, when employment rolls fell by more than 100,000. This book will inspire those who want to climb the corporate ladder.



The 100 Absolutely Unbreakable Laws of Business Success

This book teaches the how of business works. Author Brian Tracy offers practical advice distilled into 100 easy-to-understand and easy-to-apply laws covering the major areas of work and business. He also presents a set of principles or "universal laws" that lie behind the success of business people everywhere. The book also teaches how to attract and keep better people, produce and sell better products, expand and grow more predictably and increase profits.

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you deal with a know-it-all?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

DEAR WW: We work with a guy who's a real know-it-all. He "knows" how to do everyone else's job better than his own. How can we get him to focus on his job instead of on ours?

Tired Of Mr. Right

A guy who can solve other people's problems better than his own, eh? Kind of reminds me of the firefighters in Las Vegas who got called to a fire in the middle of their dinner. Oh, they put the fire out without a problem. But they were a little embarrassed when they got back to the firehouse and realized that they'd neglected to turn off the oven where their chicken fingers were cooking...

Which just goes to show that it's always a good idea to tend to our own fires before we tackle someone else's. Here are some tips that should help your "know-it-all" get the message. If you want to drop the hint without getting burned, leave this column on his desk. Or you can get him "Dialogue" by Ellinor and Gerard (Wiley, 1998) which has some other excellent suggestions.

1. Do you ask for permission before you start trying to solve other people's problems? Even the greatest insight is only appreciated when someone is ready to hear it.

2. When was the last time you said "I don't know"? If it was more than a week ago, it was probably too long. Many people (especially managers) think saying "I don't know" will make them look weak. But think again! "Real" bosses score points when they say "I don't know."

3. Do you go into every meeting already "on fire" to state your position? If so, it's time to develop a more open mind. Sit back and see how each meeting develops before you jump into the fray. You're apt to learn things that will strengthen your position, or-who knows?-may even change your mind.

4. Can you talk less? Start small: monitor how much you talk in meetings relative to the number of people present. In a meeting with ten participants do you talk 10 percent of the time? If your "floor time" is much higher, it's time to cut back. You CAN become a better listener; it just takes practice.

Fortunately, with all the meetings you probably attend, you'll have plenty of chances to practice!

5. Can you be the last one to offer an opinion? I recently conducted an experiment: I wanted to see if I could sit through a meeting and be the last one to open my mouth. I did it, and boy, was I rewarded! The person who spoke before me got shot down for offering the same idea that I was planning to suggest. Know how smart I looked a few minutes later when I later made a different, more considered suggestion?

We often think it's hot to have all the answers, but it's really like playing with fire: even "experts" can get burned when they focus on problems other than their own.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: How do you deal with know-it-alls at work?

* I tell them to buzz off, 6.6%

* I listen and learn, 20.3%

* I pretend that I'm listening then do my own thing, 73%

Our winning strategy for dealing with a know-it-all comes from Robert L. in cyberspace. "Dealing with a know-it-all is easy. Just conjure up some impossible problem. He'll want to prove his superior intelligence and he'll throw himself into it. After an hour or a week, he'll give up and admit defeat to himself. Whenever he comes around again and offers unsolicited advise, just thoughtfully remind him that you're still waiting on a resolution for the previous issue. This will make him avoid you rather than you trying to avoid him."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

LEFT PHOTO: COLUMNIST AND AUTHOR, BOB ROSNER (LEFT, SANS HIS TRADEMARK MOUSTACHE AND BEARD) SIGNS LETTER AGREEMENT WITH PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER AND OPTIMUS MANAGERS & ADVISORS, INC. FOR HIS PRESENTATIONS IN BOB ROSNER LIVE! IN MANILA, A SPECIAL PEOPLE AT WORK LIVE! SEMINAR SERIES, ON AUGUST 14-15. SERNI SOLIDARIOS, HIS PUBLICIST, LOOKS ON.

RIGHT PHOTO: US-BASED OPTIMUS REPRESENTATIVES MELINDA CHAVES AND JAMES CHAVES CATCH BOB IN BETWEEN TRIPS AT THE SEATAC AIRPORT, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON LAST SUNDAY TO WITNESS THE SIGNING OF THE LETTER AGREEMENT.

OPTIMUS MANAGERS & ADVISORS, INC. IS THE SEMINAR ORGANIZER FOR THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER'S PEOPLE AT WORK LIVE! SEMINAR SERIES. JAMES CHAVES

'Can we both have jobs, run our household?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM a bank branch manager and my wife works as an account officer in an advertising agency. Recently, we were jolted out of our comfort zone when our two helpers left us. For weeks now we have been looking around for helpers. We have not found anyone whom we can trust to run our household as efficiently as before. My two sons are in high school and they stay in school the whole day. My wife and I go and come back from work together. I am tempted to tell my wife to resign and become a full time housekeeper. But I know how much she loves her work. And with our children moving on to college in a few years, we need to be a two-income family to be able to afford to send them to good schools. Please advise.

Bothered Household Head

I can totally empathize with your situation. Now, what can you do? I think asking your wife to resign when you need her salary for the college education of your children may not be necessary. What you have to do is to apply management principles in running your household as you would at work. Today, I am proud to say that we are running our household without helpers except for a laundry woman who comes to work three times a week. What were the steps we took?

First, recognize Pareto's Law, the principle of the "vital fews" and "trivial manys." Distinguishing the 20 percent of the really important things you have to do

'Can we/ p. B13

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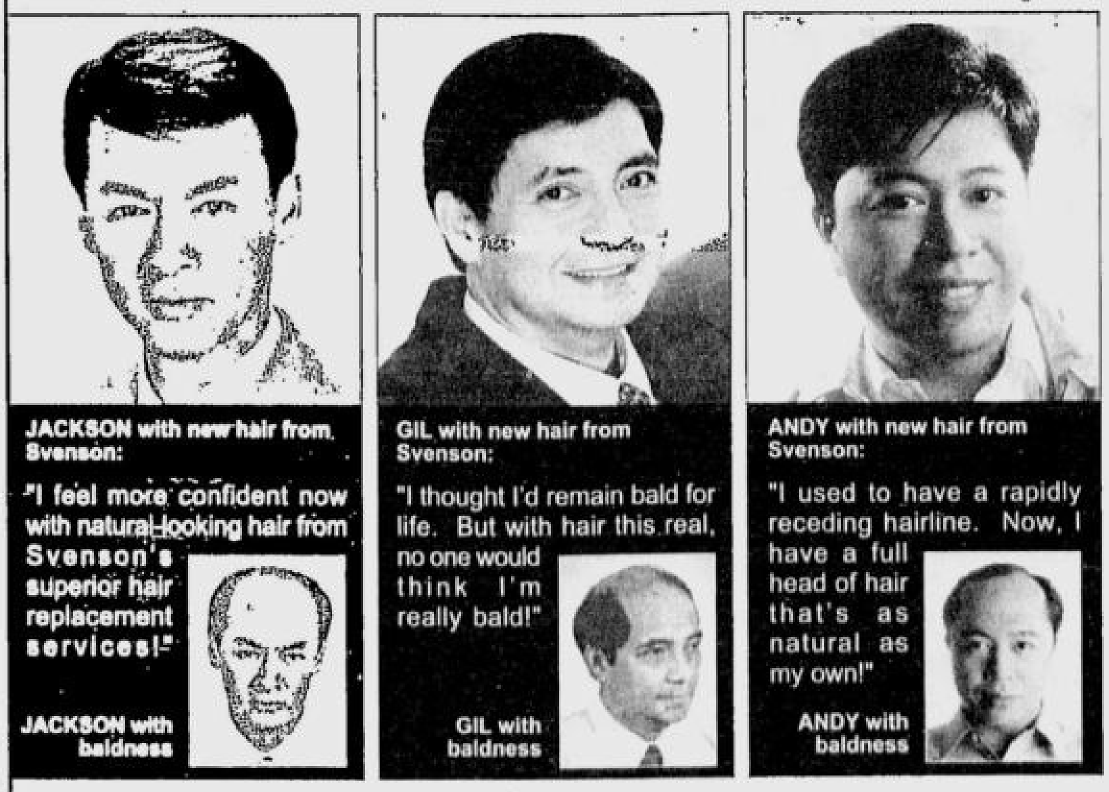

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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** © *Chief of Correspondents* **Pam Pastor**

UAAP SPECIAL, PART 2

Game knb?

Bang the drums and start the cheering! 2bU! gives the lowdown on the UAAP sport that, with its share of hardcourt heroes and screaming zealot-fans, can hardly be called a basket case

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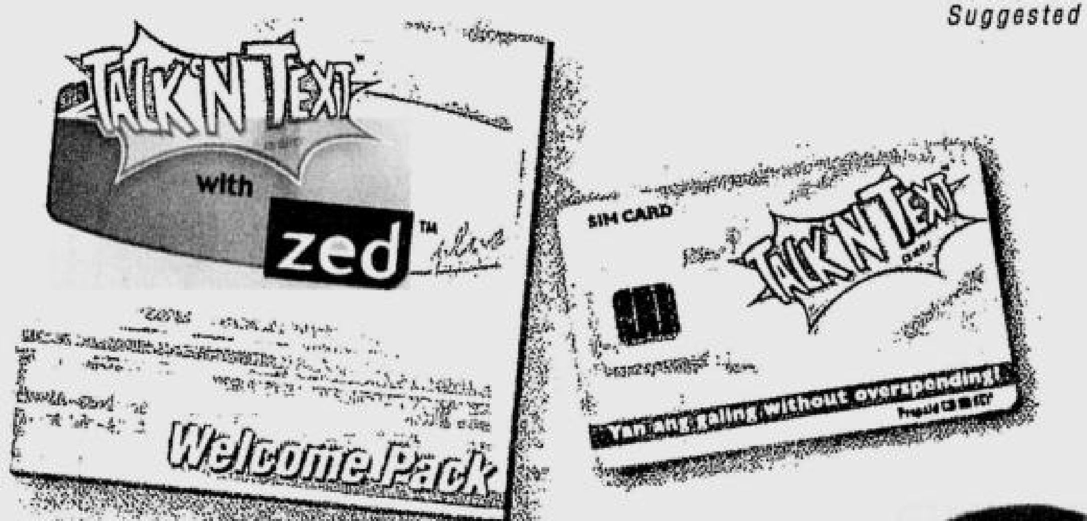

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UAAP RIVALRIES

Getting too personal for comfort

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

IN ITS 65 years, the UAAP has spawned a few rivalries that make the games a bit more interesting. The causes of these rivalries vary. Some were born out of the exclusivism of the schools (Ateneo vs La Salle), others out of repeated encounters on the hardwood (University of Santo Tomas vs La Salle, UST vs University of the East). But every battle has contributed to the history of the UAAP. And with the league's meteoric rise in popularity, new rivalries may emerge.

LA SALLE VS ATENEO

Although theirs is the most hyped rivalry in collegiate basketball today, the Ateneo Blue Eagles and the De La Salle Green Archers have seldom crossed paths for basketball titles.

Dating back to their NCAA days, both teams have figured in a championship final just five times, with only two of those instances in the UAAP.

Last year's blockbuster finals showdown was the first since 1988, when Ateneo deprived Archer star Dindo Pumaren of a championship.

Despite the lack of frequency, the 64th edition of the UAAP finals was a battle for the ages. In a three-game series that generated mass hysteria, the Archers came out on top despite bad breaks. After winning Game 1 handily with a 74-68 decision, the Archers suddenly fell ill due to a mysterious virus that was said to have afflicted affluent private schools.

Most of the players from the Archers side got hospitalized days before Game 2. The loss of personnel added to the injuries suffered by Mike Gavino, Miko Vainio and BJ Manalo in the regular season.

> Ateneo vs La Salle, UST vs La Salle, UST vs UE—these are the battles of wills that have fuelled collegiate basketball

La Salle's "four-ward" drive was further imperiled when the UAAP board suddenly suspended Archer slotman Carlo Sharma for Game 2. The suspension was a big blow for the Archers since Sharma was effective in limiting Ateneo center Enrico Villanueva.

With all the off-court setbacks, Ateneo took Game 2 with a 76-72 win.

In Game 3, Sharma broke lose to help La Salle notch its fourth straight championship. Sharma hit a career-high 22 markers, with 11 in the deciding quarter. The La Salle big man completely outplayed Villanueva, who finished with just five points.

Ateneo lost despite a 30-point display from rookie LA Tenorio.

In the '40s, La Salle and Ateneo met twice to decide the NCAA championship. Their last meeting for the plum was in 1958.

UST VS LA SALLE

The league's marquee match-ups in the mid to late '90s, the skirmishes between the UST Growling Tigers and La Salle Green Archers could be described as nothing less than classic.

With the Taft-based squad being the Tigers' perennial victims in their four-year romp as collegiate basketball's best, La Salle has turned the tide in recent years to post its own version of the "four-peat."

The first UAAP finals clash in the '90s between the two teams came in 1994, with a three-game title series that went the distance.

Coming off a perfect season that halted a 29-year uncontested championship drought, the Tigers were far from invincible in their title-retention bid as their roster was composed mainly of then-obscure names.

Bannered by current PBA mainstays Mark Clemence Telan, Jason Webb and Elmer Lago, the Archers were the pre-season favorites to win the UAAP's 57th season.

In the first game of the series, UST looked every bit the underdog as it committed 25 turnovers and lost by three points to La Salle. But the Tigers retaliated in Game 2, posting an 89-75 victory behind a 22-point outburst from Dennis Espino.

In Game 3, in front of a predominantly yellow-clad Cuneta Astrodome, legendary clutch sniper Henry Ong single-handedly dominated the season's last canto to ensure the Tigers' repeat as champions.

The following year, the hostility between the two sides came at an all-time high with the infamous "Tuition *mo, baon ko*" episode. Allegedly, supporters of the Green Archers, perhaps irked by losing in disappointing fashion for two seasons, flashed signs saying "Tuition fee *ninyo, baon ko lang*," referring to UST's "*pang-masa*" tuition rates when compared with La Salle's high tuition rates. Despite the crowd's antics, the match on the parquet floor of the Araneta Coliseum was vintage Tigers vs Archers.

Going the distance once again, the three-game series ended with a close 67-64 victory for the España-based cagers. Dale Singson ensured UST's third collegiate basketball title with a driving lay-up over Webb with 9.4 seconds remaining in the season.

The last championship from the Growling Tigers came in 1996, this time by way of a sweep. Despite two consecutive wins, UST's last title to date didn't come easy. In the two games of the championship series, the Aric del Rosario-mentored squad, characteristic of the UST "four-peat" teams, had to rally from deficits.

In Game 1, the UST Growling Tigers came back from an early 11-point La Salle lead to notch the advantage in the series. Headed by the outside attack of Henry Ong and Angelo Velasco, UST garnered a pivotal 65-60 victory.

In the series' final game, the Tigers used an 18-6 run in the game's last six minutes to eke out a close 57-54 win.

The fourth straight UST championship was the second "four-peat" in the team's history. In the 1940s, the Glowing Goldies, the squad's former nickname, posted the feat for the first time, as World War II clouds hovered in the distance.

The record for the most number of consecutive championships is held by the UE Red Warriors, who won seven straight titles from 1965-72.

UST VS UE

With both teams having the distinction of winning the most tournament titles with 18 championships apiece, UST and UE seem to have a penchant for sharing. Their encounters have often resulted in outrageous results unparalleled in the country's collegiate basketball history. In two separate occasions, both teams were declared co-champions, something rare in any sport.

In 1968, the squads were declared co-champions for the second time due to the refusal of the coaches of the two teams to field in their players. With UST up by 11 at the half in Game 2 of the three-game series, an argument broke out between Glowing Goldies head coach Rogelio Serafico and Red Warriors head coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan.

Both coaches insisted that their counterpart field in first his starting lineup before giving his own. In those days, a strategy called "matching up" was customary in crucial games. It meant pitting the personnel of one team against a player of the opposing team.

With this, a player competed with an opponent of similar position.

Dalupan insisted on having Serafico name his starting lineup since he already gave his lineup to the team's official scorer. But the UST coach stood his ground and insisted on having the legendary coach name his lineup first.

Serafico argued that since Dalupan could match up any Goldie who would play in the second half, the UE coach should go first since he had given way to UE in previous occasions.

Despite futile prodding from officials and the crowd, both coaches wouldn't budge. After some time, referee Antonio Escalabanan had no choice but to declare the game a "no contest." Eventually, the UAAP board declared both teams as "co-champions."

The first time both teams were co-holders of the UAAP title was in 1963. With UST winning on the court, the UAAP board gave the championship to both teams due to the ineligibility of a Goldie.

UST and UE awakened their slumbering rivalry in 1984 with two consecutive meetings in the finals. In the 1984 final, UE behind Allan Caidic and Jerry Codiñera deprived their rivals of a long-awaited championship.

The following year, UE put one over UST again despite the heroics of Gido Babilonia and Rabbi Tomacruz.

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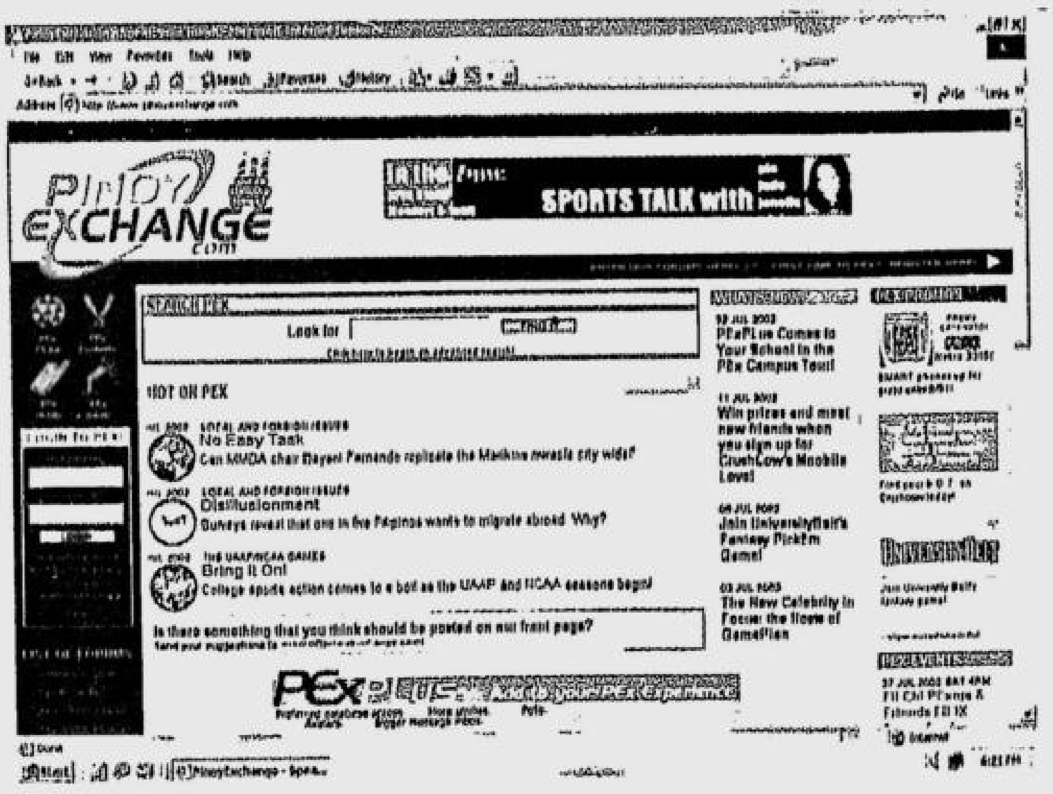

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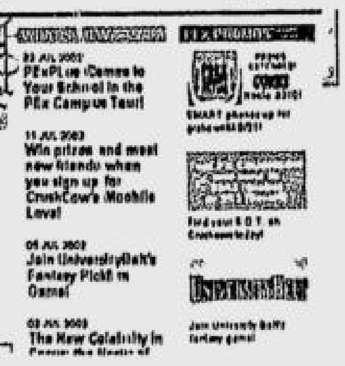
UAAP fans have found an online battleground



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The New Celebrity in Focus: the Illows of

From hardcourt wars to cyberwars

By Pam Pastor

TENSION is building up. And as always, fans of their university teams have no qualms about expressing their support for their favorite athletes. But this is no longer the time for bottle-throwing, angry banners and nasty jeers. Fans have found a new battleground—in cyberspace.

Enter Pinoyexchange.com, home to the country's most popular message boards. It is in Pex that fans have found an outlet for their pent-up UAAP excitement.

Here's a look:

The Ateneo-La Salle rivalry is alive on Pex.

Teenidolz started a thread he called "Mark My Word—Ateneo Will Crumple La Salle by 20 Pts on Aug 10." Feisty La Sallians quickly came to their team's defense. A girl from La Salle posted, "It took a lot of nerve to start a thread like this... that or head injury. What is the matter with you? What are you going to do when the Eagles fail to reinforce your claims on Aug. 10? You've said too many things already. Can you handle the stuff people will throw at you when you're wrong? It's too early to get cocky."

Personal attacks

While some Pexers talk about the players and the game, others resort to personal attacks, even attacking each other's grammar. After one La Sallian said that his girlfriend is from Ateneo, another one quipped, "Must be one of those visually challenged Ateneans. And besides, with the academic community oozing with intellectual discourses and challenging thoughts... I think she needed comedy relief..."

Others expressed their disdain for the more vocal and nastier Pexers. "Wow, *pare, tigilan mo na ang* ecstacy, *ha! Lakas ng tama mo. Hintayin na lang natin, pwede? Inuuna mo agad yabang, eh.*"

"Ang bibig na tikom malayo sa linggatong."

One Atenean remained calm throughout. "I know your post was made in response to the insulting post of teenidolz. You have every reason to reply the way you did. If teenidolz is indeed an Atenean, I apologize for him. I do have fellows who regrettably have forgotten their vow of becoming men for others.

"But I beg to disagree with you on one point. That is, crying after not winning the championship for your school is not losing without dignity. It is just an outpouring of one's emotions and frustrations, especially for not being able to attain that what you wanted badly to achieve.

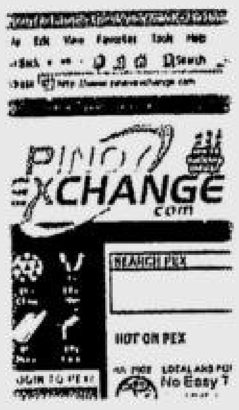
"Yes, our players shed their tears after last year's finals. However, your Green Archers did cry, too, after losing to the Blue Eagles in 1989, particularly your captain, Dindo Pumaren.

"I post this not to argue or bash, just to make a point.

"Peace, bro."

Zealots

In a thread called "*Sino ba mas pikon*, Blue Eagles *ba o* Green Archers?" some Pexers even researched before posting and presented their proofs comprehensively. Makes one wonder if they attack schoolwork with the same zeal.



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LOCAL AND FOREIGN ISSUES
No Easy T

A lot of people hit the boards to get info about their UAAP crushes.

The players are not the only ones given the spotlight. There are threads about the cheerleaders, the coaches and the courtside reporters.

One funny thread is "*Bakit ang mga babae patay na patay sa basketball players kahit pangit?*"

Bludwid posted: "You know what I read? *Sabi raw*, according to Behavioral Science experts, *parang* animal characteristics *iyan, eh. Paano ba mag*-courtship dance *ang mga ibon? Di ba nag-aaway pa nga ang iyong ibang* species for the attentions of the female. So in other words, *ang pinakamakisig, pinakamatapang* or *pinakamalakas tumili ang mas* attractive *kaysa iba, kahit na pare-pareho lang itsura nila*. In this case, *ganoon din*. You get more attention if you're rich, more athletic or more talented than most. Forget about looks, status is directly proportional to sexual attraction. Instinctive reactions *iyon so mahirap i*-pinpoint. Perfect example: *Pogi ba si* Dolphy?"

Other threads discuss off-court topics. There are a number of posts about the players' girlfriends and personal lives. There are even gossipy exchanges about alleged dirty videos involving players and coaches.

The UAAP message board is like a circus—there are all sorts of characters with all sorts of acts and an audience that feeds from this craziness. It seems endless, it is crazy, it's exciting—much like the game itself.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2304 Series of 2002

UST fetes topnotchers

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas and the UST Alumni Association Inc. (USTAAI) will pay tribute to 73 alumni who have topped the bar and the national licensure examinations given during school year 2001-2002.

The Thomasian board topnotchers will be honored in a testimonial dinner on July 26 at the UST Faculty of Civil Law lobby. UST Rector Rev. Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P. and USTAAI president lawyer Salvador Lao will lead the administration in welcoming the honorees and their families.

Over the years, the university has registered laudable performance in the annual licensure examinations, most of which are administered by the Professional Regulatory Commission.

Among the professional tests that UST has consistently dominated are architecture, chemical engineering, interior design, nursing, medical technology, medicine, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and library science.

Other disciplines that have noted Thomasian academic presence are accountancy, biochemistry, civil engineering, electrical engineering, electronics and communications engineering, law, and nutrition and dietetics.

Fair puts different schools under one roof

EVENTS Media Marketing and Ad Camp Inc. are organizing the first ever College Calls 2002 Aug. 16-18 at the Megatrade Hall C, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

During the three-day event, would-be-college students can inquire about school curricula, fill out applications for college admissions test, get brochures and other pertinent information from different schools in just 60 minutes. Students will have access to off-campus admissions offices with representatives of more than 40 educational institutions answering inquiries on admissions and career opportunities.

Other allied services are participating in the trade show. Visitors can see review centers, computers, computer peripherals and school supplies to help make college life easy.

College Calls 2002 will feature special events and free seminars such as the GCI's IT Quiz Show, to be held for three days with morning and afternoon matches. A website seminar by the Mapua Information Technology Center will give valuable tips and show students tricks in creating their personal or school organization websites. John Robert Powers will conduct sessions on personality development. Talks on career opportunities and effective time management will be given as well.

Call Events-Media Marketing Inc. at 752-3936, 751-5200, 892-4465, or Ad Camp Inc. at 810-5301 or 893-4009

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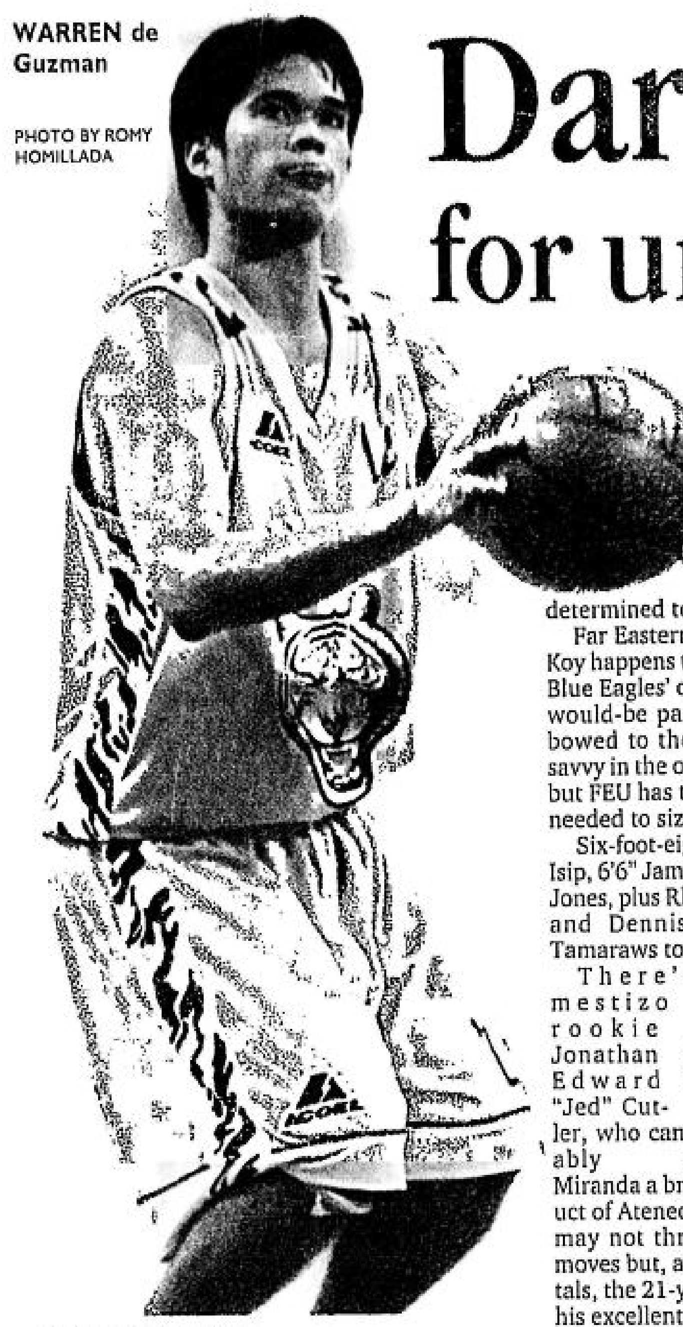


WARREN de Guzman

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Dark horses may make for unpredictable UAAP season

By Dennis U. Eroa

IT may seem too early, but it does not hurt to take a closer look at the ongoing UAAP cage wars.

Not surprisingly, De La Salle University, which is eyeing a fifth title, is ahead of the eight-team field with three straight wins. Deadly with its half-court set, La Salle's character will matter most as the series continues. The Green Archers remain solid as a rock.

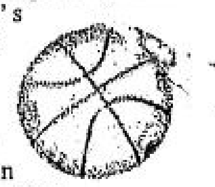
And Ateneo? After a so-so start, the Blue Eagles are back in devastating style. Just ask their second victim—the University of Santo Tomas Tigers.

Aside from its triangle, Ateneo's strength lies in its newfound confidence. The "We Believe" cry last year still rings true this season for the Blue Eagles.

An Ateneo-La Salle final for the second straight year will be a dream come true for scalpers. But for that epic encounter to become a reality, the Green Archers and the Blue Eagles must keep their focus in the face of an opposition determined to give them a run for their money.

Far Eastern University (FEU), whose coach Koy happens to be the younger brother of the Blue Eagles' own Joel Banal, tops the list of would-be party poopers. The Tamaraws bowed to the Green Archers' all-around savvy in the opener at the Big Dome, 85-72, but FEU has the 3Hs—height, heft, hustle—needed to sizzle.

Six-foot-eight Dom Yabut, 6'7" Mark Isip, 6'6" James Razon and 6'4" Gerard Jones, plus Rhagnee Cinco, Cesar Catli and Dennis Miranda, make the Tamaraws tough competitors.



There's mestizo rookie Jonathan Edward "Jed" Cutler, who can ably give Miranda a breather at the point. A product of Ateneo de Davao, the 5'11" Cutler may not thrill the fans with highlight moves but, armed with sound fundamentals, the 21-year-old is a joy to watch with his excellent choice of shots and unselfish handling of the ball.

Despite his size, Cutler likes big men Danny Ildefonso and Tim Duncan. "I want to play big," says Cutler, who admits being shocked by Manila's "noise".

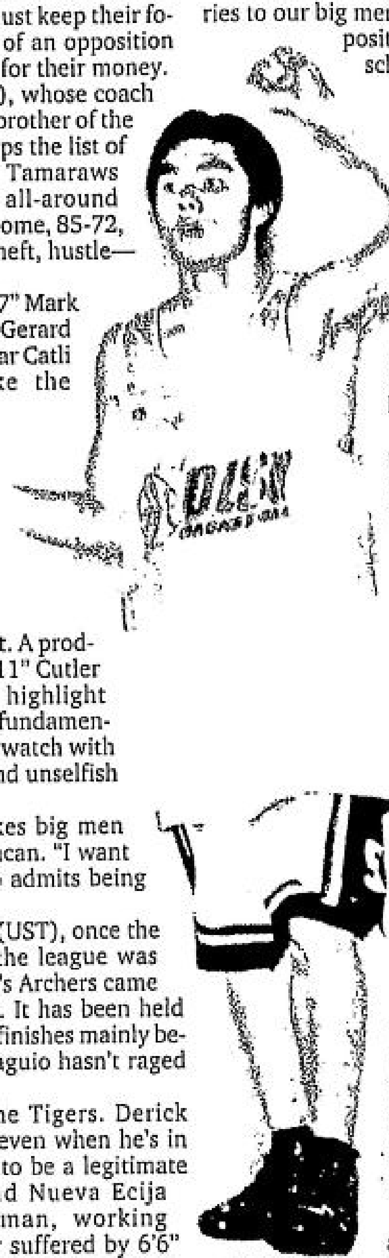
University of Santo Tomas (UST), once the team by which everyone in the league was judged before Franz Pumaren's Archers came on the scene, remains deadly. It has been held back though by its scrambling finishes mainly because the "storm" in Cyrus Baguio hasn't raged yet.

Still, all is not lost for the Tigers. Derick Hubalde, who likes to shoot even when he's in the comfort room, continues to be a legitimate threat. Alwyn Espiritu and Nueva Ecija standout Warren de Guzman, working doubletime due to the injury suffered by 6'6" Mike Naningga, can explode in mid-season.

Easily, UST's biggest asset at the moment is tall point guard Christian Luanzon of Quezon City, whose game can create mismatches in the backcourt.

This Jason Kidd disciple is taking up behavioral science at the Pontifical University, and, like the 6'3" De Guzman, is living proof that basketball players aren't necessarily dumb.

"I'm comfortable playing the point, but injuries to our big men force me to play the forward position," said the 6'4" former high school star at St. Stephen's.



JOSEPH Teo

ROMY HOMILLADA

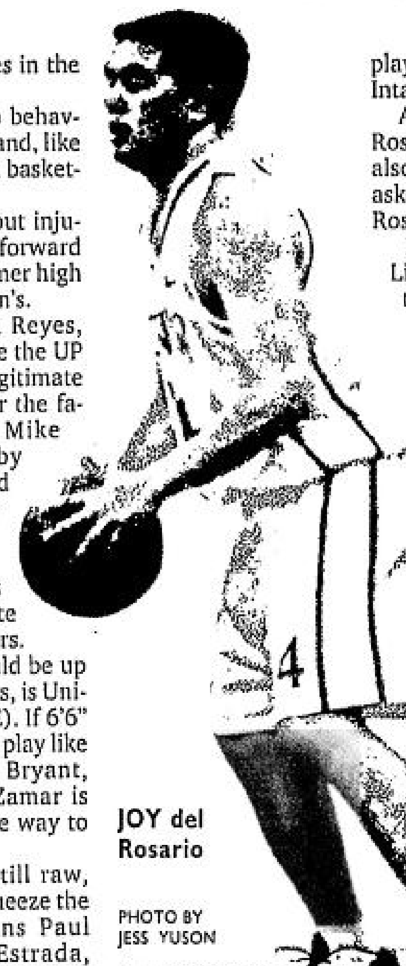
Newcomer Jay-R Reyes, 6'7", should make the UP Maroons a legitimate headache for the favorites. Mike Bravo, Abby Santos and Josant Cervantes have the maturity to explode. But if Bravo's guns jam, the deliberate Maroons' offense falters.

A team, which should be up there with the favorites, is University of the East (UE). If 6'6" Rommel Canaleta can play like his look-alike Kobe Bryant, then coach Boysie Zamar is going to smile all the way to the finals.

But Canaleta's still raw, and Zamar must squeeze the best from veterans Paul Artadi, Jay-Ar Estrada, Ronald Tubid and James Yap. Artadi, Estrada and Tubid are playing hot and cold, while Yap is still trying to find his range. Ollan Omiping and Rolly Masbang can score off the bench and fuel UE's go-go plays.

Don't expect too much from Adamson and National University (NU). Although the Falcons have finally tasted victory after two years of trying in vain, this doesn't mean they have a chance to make the Final Four. NU's lineup is one of the weakest this season, so the Bulldogs may be all bark but no bite.

Going back to the Eagles, who are trying to return to the top after 14 long years—they should be happy that Joy del Rosario, BJ Manalo's high school buddy, is playing heads-up basketball. The 6'4" rookie JC Intal isn't getting the playing minutes yet.



JOY del Rosario

PHOTO BY JESS YUSON

An interdisciplinary studies student, Del Rosario's not just a tireless defender, but he can also score big baskets. "I keep the faith," when asked to describe his stint with the Eagles. Del Rosario isn't afraid to defend against bigger foes.

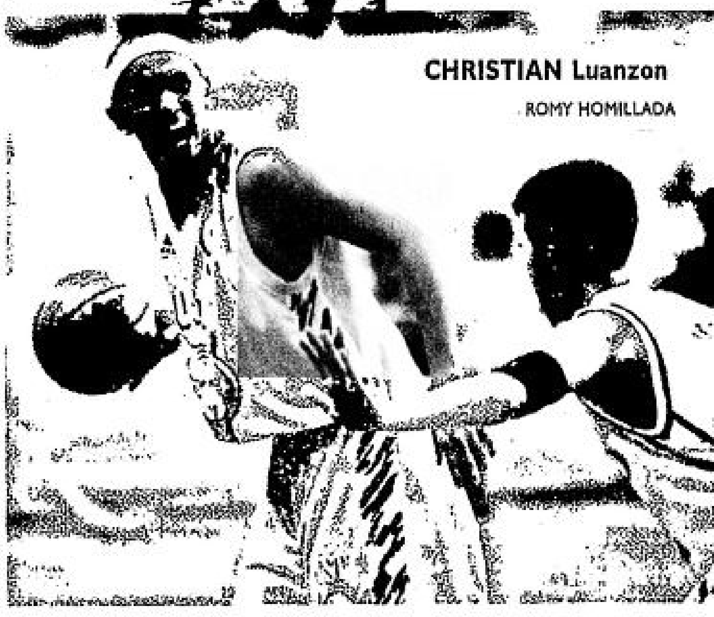
He sat out most of the last season under Joe Lipa, but is now reveling in the rotation instituted by coach Banal. "I try to give my best," Del Rosario said.

Against the Tigers, he suffered cramps leading a reporter to comment, "He isn't used to getting the minutes."

La Salle, of course, is always capable of pulling surprises. Mark Cardona, Mike Cortez and Willy Wilson are still around to stretch the Archers' reign. But now a good-looking, chinky-eyed fellow named Joseph Yeo is making waves with his daredevil moves to the basket.

Only 18, Yeo is a product of the highly successful Xavier high school basketball factory. Another Xavier alumnus is Cortez's reliever Tyrone Tang, whose small size belies a huge fighting heart.

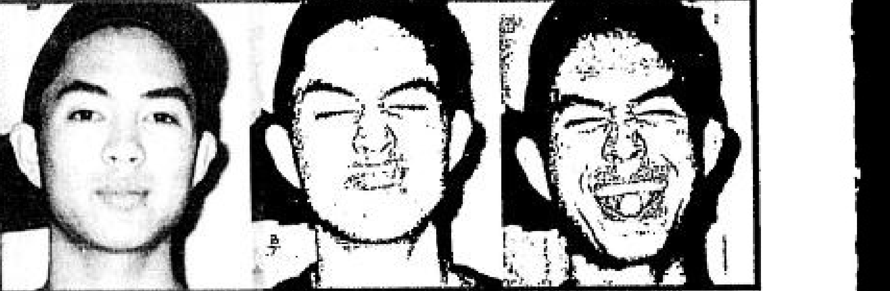
The Tang-Yeo duo should spell wonders for the proud and mighty Archers. The six-footer Yeo's ability to hit the outside shots should give La Salle a lift when faced with the zone, while Tang is slowly but surely adjusting to the university's clinical-type of play.



CHRISTIAN Luanzon

ROMY HOMILLADA

Maroons get a fighting chance with most sought-after rookie



Text and Photos by Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

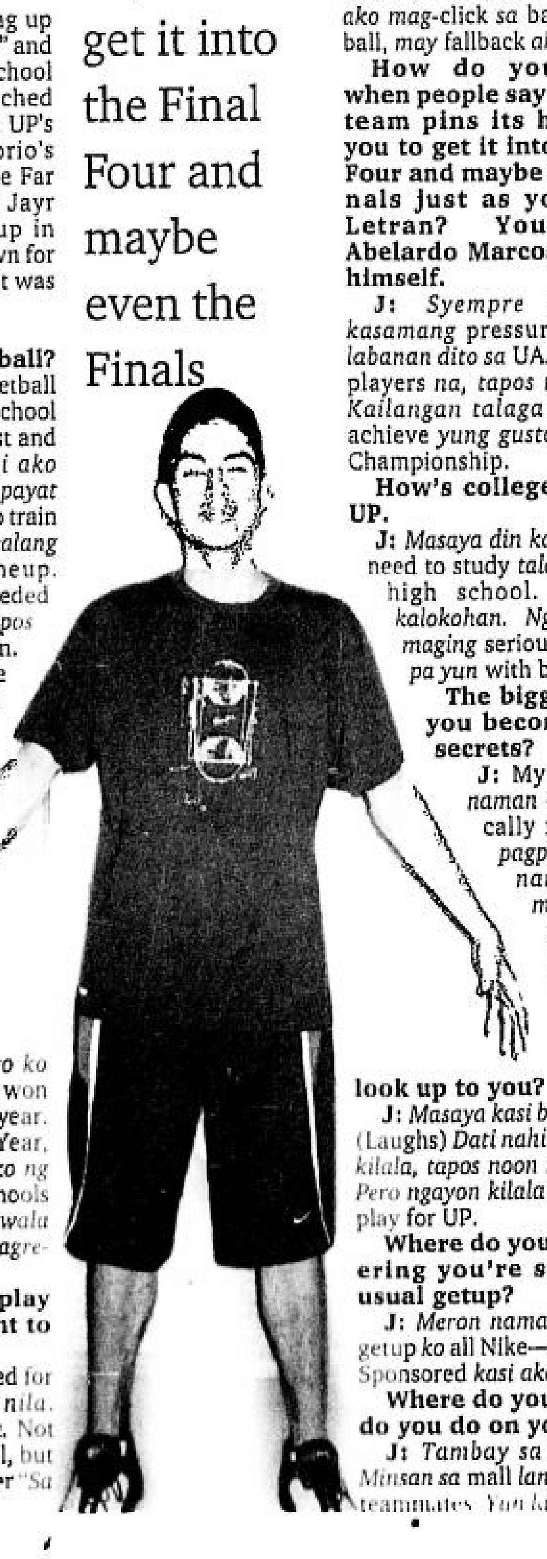
EVERYBODY was after him. Both De La Salle University and Ateneo de Manila University tried to get him, as did all other members of the UAAP. Now all eyes are on the University of the Philippines' Fighting Maroons, who got the most coveted rookie this year, Jayr Reyes.

The 18-year-old freshman, who is taking up Comparative Literature, already stands 6'7" and is still growing. Turned down in the high school varsity tryout, he is now the most watched rookie of the season. 2bU! caught up with UP's newest sensation at Coach Alan Gregorio's home after the Maroons' game against the Far Eastern University team last Saturday. Jayr talked about his life—from growing up in Bulacan to winning the NCAA Juniors' crown for Colegio de San Juan de Letran, and how it was to be simply Jayr Reyes.

> UP may be pinning its hopes on Reyes to get it into the Final Four and maybe even the Finals

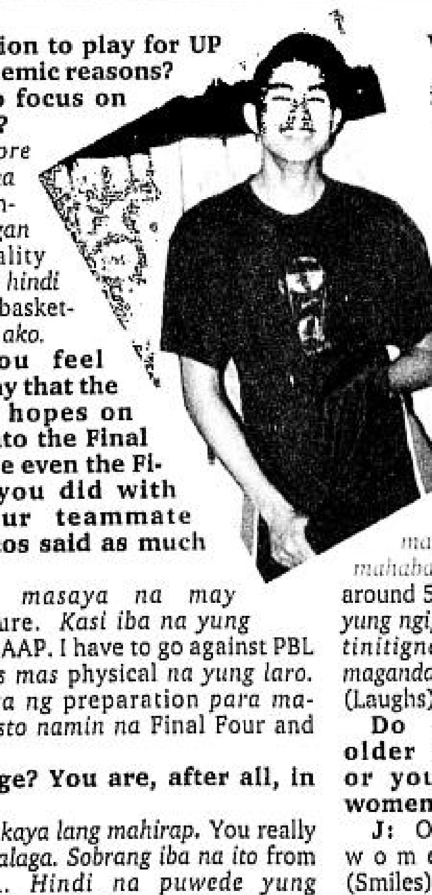
How did you get started in basketball?

Jayr (J): *Nagsimula akong mag*-basketball *bata pa ako. Pero* I tried out for the high school varsity team *dun sa* Bulacan *nung nasa* first and second year high school *na ako. Hindi ako natanggap kasi daw* I lacked skill and super *payat pa 'ko nun.* Third year *naman,* I was asked to train with the team *nung* coach. *Yun nga lang, walang* assurance *na* I'd make it to the lineup. *Nagkaroon ng* competition, *tapos* they needed only 15 players. I was number 16 *ata. Tapos may nag*-back out *na isang* player. I got in. Super *saya ko nga nun eh.* (Smiles) For the entire season, two minutes *lang ako naglaro. Dun sa* competition, *nanood pala si* Elmer Latonio, assistant coach *ng* Letran Juniors. He said that I had potential *daw* and *gusto raw niya akong maglaro* for Letran. I went to Letran and completed a one-year residency *para maging* eligible to play for the NCAA. During that one year, *nag*-train *talaga akong mabuti. Tapos,* I got in *sa* team for NCAA. *Dapat nga,* captain *ako, kaya lang na*-late *ako mag*-submit *ng* picture. (Laughs) *Ang gusto ko talaga mag*-champion *ang* Letran. *Yun,* we won the title, *tapos* I got four awards all in one year. I was Most Valuable Player, Rookie of the Year, Best Defensive Player and member *pa ako ng* Mythical Five. That was when different schools contacted me to play for them. Before, *wala lang ako, tapos ngayon ang dami na ang nagre*-recruit *sa akin.*



Everybody was expecting you to play for Ateneo or La Salle, but you went to UP. Why?

J: The first two weeks *kasi* that I trained for UP, *na*-feel *ko talaga yung* closeness *nila. Talagang* family *ang trato nila sa isa't isa.* Not that the other teams did not treat me well, but with UP, I never felt the pressure to answer "*Sa amin ka na ba?*"



Is your decision to play for UP mainly for academic reasons? Do you plan to focus on basketball, too?

J: *Syempre parehas.* Let's say *na kunwari magka*-injury *tayo, kailangan din natin ng* quality education. In case *hindi ako mag*-click *sa* basketball, *may* fallback *ako.*

How do you feel when people say that the team pins its hopes on you to get it into the Final Four and maybe even the Finals just as you did with Letran? Your teammate Abelardo Marcos said as much himself.

J: *Syempre masaya na may kasamang* pressure. *Kasi iba na yung labanan dito sa* UAAP. I have to go against PBL players *na, tapos mas* physical *na yung laro. Kailangan talaga ng* preparation *para ma*-achieve *yung gusto namin na* Final Four and Championship.

How's college? You are, after all, in UP.

J: *Masaya din kaya lang mahirap.* You really need to study *talaga. Sobrang iba na ito* from high school. *Hindi na puwede yung kalokohan. Ngayon talaga kailangan kong maging* serious *sa pag-aaral at saka isabay pa yun* with basketball.

The biggest question is how did you become so tall? Any growth secrets?

J: My mom *kasi* is 5'8". Dad *ko naman* 6'1" or 6'2". I think it's basically in the genes, *eh. Sikretong pagpapatangkad?* (Smiles) *Wala naman. Pero nung bata ako mahilig akong matulog at uminom ng gatas.* That helped *siguro kung paano ako tumangkad nang ganito.* (Laughs)

How do you feel when people literally look up to you?

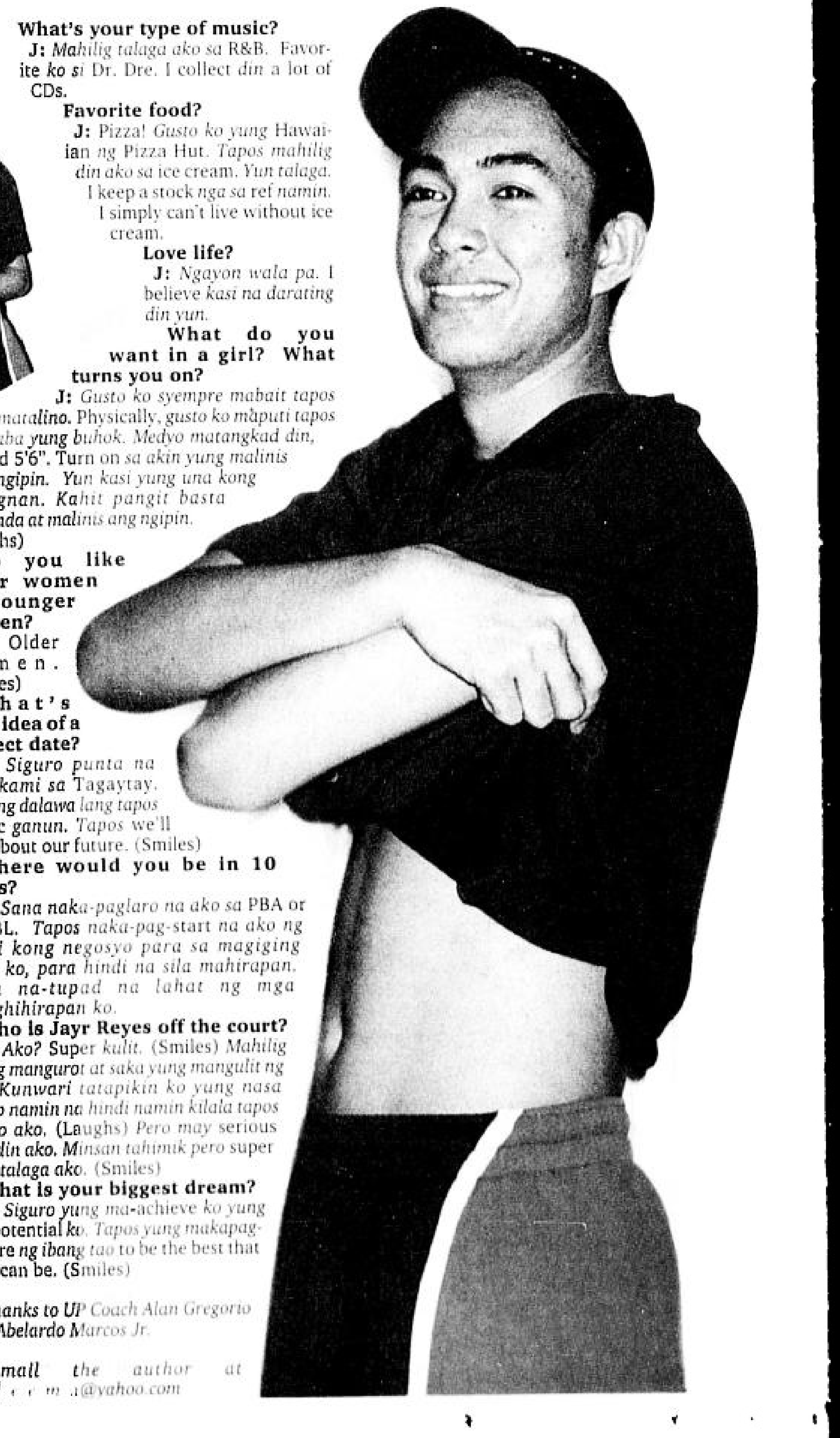
J: *Masaya kasi bata pa lang ako tinitingala na.* (Laughs) *Dati nahihiya ako kasi hindi pa nila ako kilala, tapos noon nga hindi ako kasali sa* team. *Pero ngayon kilala na nila ako.* They know *na* I play for UP.

Where do you get your clothes considering you're super tall? What's your usual getup?

J: *Meron naman kasya sa akin. Ngayon ang* getup *ko* all Nike—from shoes to cap, Nike *lahat.* Sponsored *kasi ako, eh.* (Smiles)

Where do you usually hang out? What do you do on your free time?

J: *Tambay sa bahay ng mga* teammates. *Minsan sa* mall *lang. Nood ng sine.* Bonding with teammates. *Yun lang.*



What's your type of music?

J: *Mahilig talaga ako sa* R&B. Favorite *ko si* Dr. Dre. I collect *din* a lot of CDs.

Favorite food?

J: Pizza! *Gusto ko yung* Hawaiian *ng* Pizza Hut. *Tapos mahilig din ako sa* ice cream. *Yun talaga.* I keep a stock *nga sa* ref *namin.* I simply can't live without ice cream.

Love life?

J: *Ngayon wala pa.* I believe *kasi na darating din yun.*

What do you want in a girl? What turns you on?

J: *Gusto ko syempre mabait tapos matalino.* Physically, *gusto ko màputi tapos mahaba yung buhok. Medyo matangkad din,* around 5'6". Turn on *sa akin yung malinis yung ngipin. Yun kasi yung una kong tinitignan. Kahit pangit basta maganda at malinis ang ngipin.* (Laughs)

Do you like older women or younger women?

J: Older women. (Smiles)

What's your idea of a perfect date?

J: *Siguro punta na lang kami sa* Tagaytay. *Kaming dalawa lang tapos* picnic *ganun. Tapos* we'll talk about our future. (Smiles)

Where would you be in 10 years?

J: *Sana naka-paglaro na ako sa* PBA or *sa* PBL. *Tapos naka-pag-start na ako ng sarili kong negosyo para sa magiging anak ko, para hindi na sila mahirapan. Sana na-tupad na lahat ng mga pinaghihirapan ko.*

Who is Jayr Reyes off the court?

J: *Ako?* Super *kulit.* (Smiles) *Mahilig akong manguror at saka yung mangulit ng tao. Kunwari tatapikin ko yung nasa harap namin na hindi namin kilala tapos lalayo ako.* (Laughs) *Pero may* serious side *din ako. Minsan tahimik pero* super *kulit talaga ako.* (Smiles)

What is your biggest dream?

J: *Siguro yung ma*-achieve *ko yung* full potential *ko. Tapos yung makapag*-inspire *ng ibang tao* to be the best that they can be. (Smiles)

Thanks to UP Coach Alan Gregorio and Abelardo Marcos Jr.

E-mail the author at [illegible]a@yahoo.com

Conversations *with* UST's dunking duo

By Dexter R. Matilla
2bU! Correspondent

THEY are the Growling Tigers' dreaded dunking duo. When fans of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) team talk about the Tigers, they almost always mention Cyrus Baguio and Niño Gelig's names in the same breath. And why not? Baguio and Gelig play the same position in the team and live in the same dormitory. They were teammates in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) and were both in the national team. Now, Baguio and his good buddy Gelig will try to bring UST back to the UAAP Promised Land.

How did it feel to be part of the UST team that missed the UAAP Final Four for the first time since 1994?

Niño Gelig (NG): *Nakakalungkot kasi* first time *nga*. So we just looked at it in a positive way so that this season, we're motivated to do everything we can to help the team get back to the Final Four. We definitely don't want that (last year's finish) to happen again.

How did it feel to see UST out of the Final Four and being unable to do anything about it?

Cyrus Baguio (CB): Depressed *ako kasi kahit papaano,* part *pa rin ako ng* team. *Nanonood nga ako ng* TV *noon tapos iniisip ko, gusto kong maglaro kung pwede lang. Sana nakatulong ako kahit papaano.*

What was your most memorable game in the UAAP? In the PBL?

NG: When UST lost to DLSU (De La Salle University) in the 1997 UAAP championship. Memorable *iyon kasi* champion *sana kami pero nasilat pa. Akala ko* champion *na kami, iyon pala hindi pa pala para sa amin.* That's why *hindi ko makakalimutan iyon.*

In the PBL, when we beat John-O in a playoff for the last semifinals berth in the last conference. If we lost that game, everything would have been over for us. That game showed how good we were and could be if we wanted to win.

CB: Like Niño, our game against La Salle where we lost in the 1997 championship. *Sa* PBL, against ICTSI-La Salle last conference in the battle for third, where we won.

What was your most memorable moment as a student?

NG: *Kapag kasama ko iyong mga* classmates *ko na sumusuporta sa akin.* They help me in my studies. *Sobrang bait nga nila sa akin kasi alam nila na nahihirapan ako sa pag-aaral.*

CB: *Siguro nung gumala kaming mga* players *sa may* field *tapos nag-kulitan lang kami. Ang saya-saya namin noon kasi parang wala kaming mga problema. Tawanan lang. Kwela kasi ang mga kasama ko.*

How did you get into UST?

NG: *Galing ako ng* Pampanga. I went to high school at the Holy Angel University where Coach Aric recruited me to play for UST. *Matagal ko nang gustong maglaro sa* UST. *Hinihintay ko lang si* Coach *mismo na magsabi sa akin kung gusto niya ako.* So when he approached me and told me that he wanted me to play for UST, I immediately accepted the offer. *Nakita na niya kasi akong maglaro* before, so he told my high school coach *na gusto niya akong kunin.*

CB: *Nung una kasi, sa* La Salle *ako dinala ng* Tito *ko. Kaso sabi sa kanya, gagawin muna akong* reserve player for two years. *Nasa isip ko na parang hindi ako magagamit kasi marami pa silang* stars, *tapos kasabay ko pa si* Ren-ren Ritualo. *Kaya sabi ng* Tito *ko,* try *namin sa* UST *kasi kilala niya si* Coach Aric. *Nagpunta ako sa* UST *tapos kinuha na ako ni* Coach.

What can you say about being part of the "dunking duo?"

NG: *Nakakatuwa. Kailangan lang patunayan namin* (he and Baguio) *na karapat-dapat sa amin* iyang title *na iyan.*

Aside from you guys, which other player in the UAAP is a good dunker?

NG: Ateneo's Richard Alvarez.

CB: *Sina* Enrico Villanueva, Alvarez, Richard Tubid.

Who do you admire most among local and international basketball players?

NG: In the PBA, Alaska's Kenneth Duremdes, *kasi dati ko pa siyang* idol. In the NBA, Washington Wizard's Michael Jordan.

CB: *Dati si* Vergel Meneses, *pero ngayon hindi na siya ganoon kalakas. Ngayon si* Danny Seigle. *Sa* international *naman, sina* Kobe Bryant *at* Allen Iverson.

Which team in the UAAP do you think is a legitimate title contender this season?

NG: La Salle *pa rin kasi iba iyong sistema nila. Masipag silang mag-*hustle, *lalo na sa* pressure defense. *Tapos nandiyan pa rin sina* Mike Cortez. *Marami pa rin silang* veterans. Ateneo (de Manila University) *rin, pero mas nalalakasan ako sa* La Salle.

CB: La Salle or Ateneo.

Do you think the Growling Tigers can match any of those teams if you meet them in the Final Four or even the championship?

NG: *Sa tingin ko, oo. Wala namang imposible, basta magtutulungan lang kami ng mga* teammates *ko. Kasi iyang* basketball, *hindi lang laro ng isang tao iyan. Kung maglaro kami ng sama-sama, malamang may* chance *kami.*

CB: *May laban kami kahit papaano, pero mahirap talagang sabihin kasi marami rin silang mga bagong* players.

After the UAAP, do you plan to play in the PBA? What team do you want to join?

NG: Hopefully. *Kahit saan namang* team *kasi hindi naman ako namimili. Pero kung pwede, sana sa* Alaska.

CB: *Wala pa sa isip ko iyon. Siguro* I'll stay *muna sa* PBL *kasi gusto ko,* if I turn pro, *hinog na talaga ako.*

Who among the past/present UAAP players was/is the hardest to guard?

NG: Ren-ren Ritualo. *Kasi marami siyang dinadaanan na* picks. *Minsan dala-dalawa. Tapos* quick *siya kung tumira, hindi iyong mga* set shots. *Basta mabilis. Ang hirap tuloy humabol. Saka* shooter *pa siya.*

CB: *Walang* specific, *pero siguro sa mga* point guards, *sina* Paul Artadi, Mike Cortez, *iyong mga maliliksi, mabibilis, iyon ang mahirap bantayan.*

What can you say about Aric del Rosario?

NG: *Wala akong masasabi dun. Taas-kamay ko sa kanya. Sobrang bait ng* coach *na iyon. Magaling siyang mag-*motivate *ng* player. *Palagi niyang pinapaalala sa amin iyong pag-aaral. Nagagalit siya pag hindi kami nag-aaral. Sinasabi niya sa amin, 'Oo, ang* basketball *nandiyan, pero after mong mag-*basketball, *mas maganda na meron kang pupuntahang iba dahil tapos ka nang pag-aaral. Walang masama kung naglalaro ka ng* basketball; *basta nag-aaral ka rin. Parang tatay na rin namin siya. Siya iyong tumatayong ama ng* team.

CB: *Parang* second father *na namin siya. Kung nakikita ng mga tao na maingay siya, ganoon na talaga siya kasi gusto niya magising iyong mga* players. *Ayaw niyang tatahimik lang siya at manonood. Gusto niya lumakas ang* self-esteem *namin na maglaro. Para lumakas and mga loob namin. Hindi kami sinisigawan dahil wala kaming alam o dahil bobo kami. Gusto niya lang talagang matuto kami. Tanggap na namin na maingay talaga siya.*

How did Coach Aric tell you that you wouldn't play last year?

CB: *Alam ko na kasi na hindi ako makakalaro. Kaya naman kasi hindi ako nakalaro, hindi dahil bumagsak ako, hindi lang talaga ako nakapag-*enroll. *Na-*late *na kasi ako. Pwede pa sana ako mag-*enroll *kaso nahiya ako sa mga* classmates *ko kasi sobrang* late *na. Mga* January *na ata iyon. Naglaro na lang ako sa* PBL. *Pero pumupunta pa rin ako sa* practice *ng* team *sa* UST. *Wala naman kaming problema ni* Coach Aric *noon.*

Which other UAAP coach do you admire?

NG: Franz Pumaren, *kasi puro* championships *na ang dinala niya sa* La Salle since he handled the team. *Ang galing niya. Napantayan pa niya iyong* "four-peat" record *ng* UST.

Between UST and La Salle's "four-peats," which do you think is better?

NG: *Iyong iba kasing* championships *ng* La Salle, *alam naman natin ang daming* controversy. *Pero sa* UST, *malinis talaga. Pinaghirapan talaga. Mas masarap namnamin.*

What can you say about Cyrus Baguio?

NG: *Sa tagal na naming magkasama niyan, alam na nga namin ang mga sikreto ng isa't-isa.* We've known each other since *pumasok kami sa* UST. *Naging* teammates *pa kami sa* PBL *at sa* Philippine team. *Halos lahat ng laro magkasama kami. Hindi ko nga alam kung sinasadya iyon e. Kaya sobrang naging* close *kami.*

What can you say about Niño Gelig?

CB: *Para kaming magkapatid niyan. Kapag wala kaming gagawin, pumupunta kami ng* mall or *sa mga* bar.

Is there any rivalry between the two of you?

NG: No. *Ako,* I just play hard and help the team. *Iyon din ang kagandahan sa aming dalawa, hindi kami nagsasapawan. Kung may* game *na maganda ang laro ko, tutulungan niya ako, tapos kung maganda naman ang laro niya, tutulungan ko rin siya. Hindi naman kami iyong klase ng* teammates *na "Uy, maganda ang laro niya, kailangan ako din.* Score *din ako." Talagang kung siya ang suwerte, siya na* as long as *mananalo iyong* team.

How do you spend your time off the court?

NG: *Minsan magkasama kami* (Baguio). *Minsan naman, dito lang ako sa* dorm. *Kapag sinisipag namang lumabas,* we go to the mall. *Pero* usually, *dito lang ako, nakahiga, nood ng* TV, *laro ng* computer. *Siyempre, pahinga.*

What is your goal this season?

NG: *Iyong makapasok muna sa* Final Four. *Saka na iyong* championship. *Basta lalaban muna kami sa* elimination. We'll take it one game at a time. *Malay natin, iyong isa-isa na iyon, nasa* championship *na pala. Kasi kapag nandoon ka na sa* Final Four, *mas malaki na ang* chance *mo na makapasok sa* finals. *Kasi masyadong maaga iyong ambisyon na* championship *agad. Baka malungkot lang ako kapag hindi kami makapasok sa* finals.

CB: *Ngayon sa* Final Four *muna. Tsaka na iyong* championship.

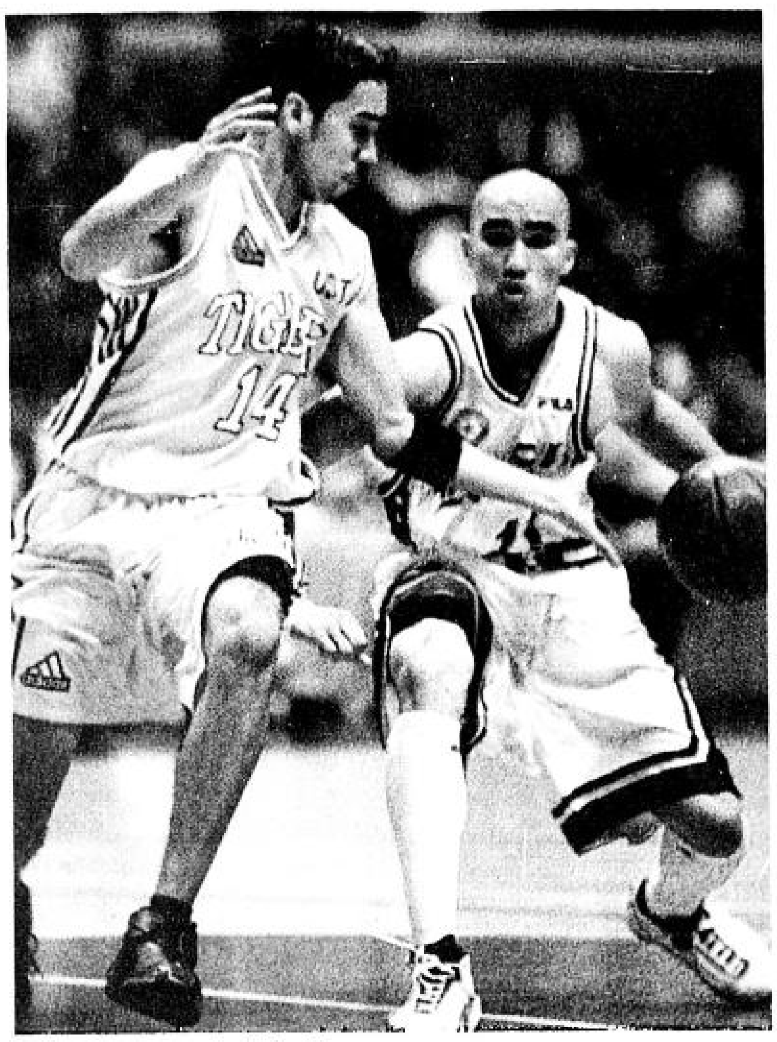
What will you miss most when you leave UST?

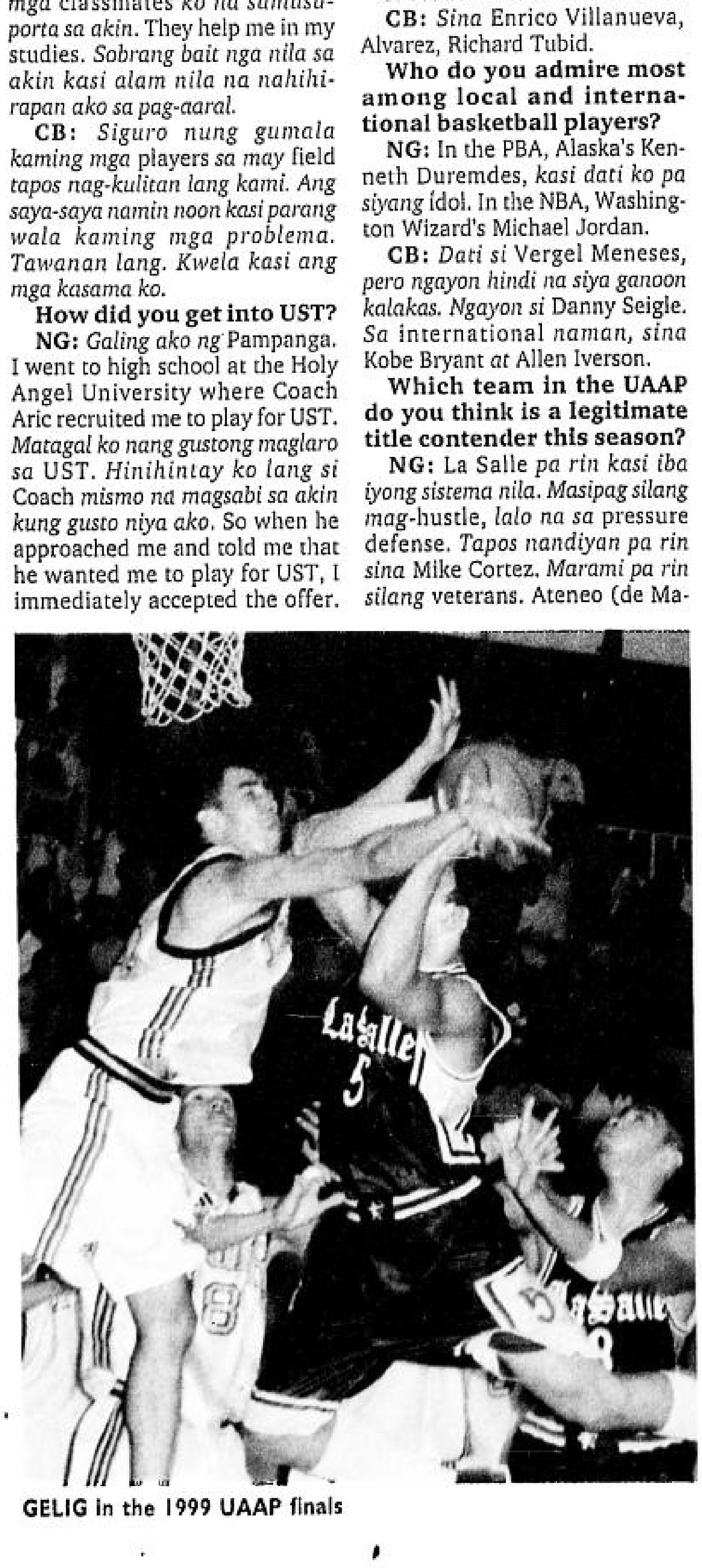
NG: *Iyong mga taong nasa* UST. *Iyong mga sumusuporta sa amin. Iba kasi talaga pag nasa* school *ka, e.*

How do you want to be remembered when you leave UST?

NG: As a good Thomasian. A good student. *Gusto ko maalala ng mga* Thomasians *na nakatulong ako sa* team. *Gusto ko* this year, *maka-pasok sa* Final Four, and eventually the championship, *kasi gusto ko pag umalis ako, sasabihin nila, "Iyang si Nino, naging* part *iyan ng* championship." *Hindi ganoon kadali iyon, pero gusto ko ganoon. Kaya gina-gawa ko lahat ng magagawa ko para makatulong din sa* team *para* at least, *sa* last year *ko, masasabi ko na nagampanan ko ang* role *ko sa* UST.

CB: *Bilang* player *na lumalaban talaga. Iyong hindi sumusuko agad. Gusto ko kahit hindi man kami mag-*champion, *maalaala ng mga tao na lumalaban pa din kami kahit papaano.*


NIÑO Gelig guards Mike Cortez.


GELIG in the 1999 UAAP finals

CYRUS Baguio with a reverse dunk

Baguio and Gelig hope US will mak it at least to the Final Four but they'll take things on game at time

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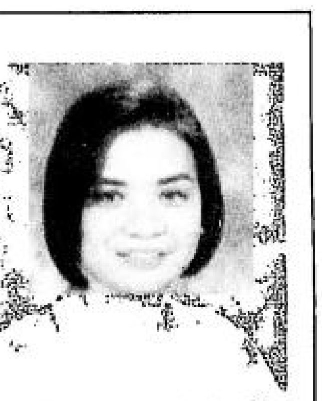
Killing us Softly



*Estrellita V. Fernando-Lopez, MD, MA, FPCP, FPSEM**

It afflicts man easily-and how. Most people will enjoy the process of being affected by the disorder. It gets into our system by filling ourselves with the "good" caloric dense food teeming all around us, and whiling away our time in front of the computer and the idiot box--the television.

What is this malady that is now considered an epidemic affecting people worldwide, a by-product of a modern world overwhelmed by fastfood outlets and technological know-how promoting a sedentary lifestyle, and which results in health burdens which shorten man's life span?

Look around and see the increased number of people afflicted with obesity. A 1998 survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Philippines found that 23.3% of Filipinos are overweight, and more than 20% are obese. In the United States, the statistics are more alarming: more than half of the Americans are overweight, and more than one fourth (27%) have obesity. How do you know if you are overweight, or obese, for that matter?

MEASURE OF OBESITY
Ideal Body weight charts

Obesity is defined as an excess of body fat. Obesity is more than 20% of one's ideal body weight (IBW). Overweight is more than 10% but less than 20% over one's IBW. Ideal body weight may be estimated through the following formula:

Build	Women	Men
Small	-10%	-10%
Medium	100 lbs for 1st 5ft. of height;5lbs/inch for each inch>5ft.	106 lbs for 1st 5ft. of height;6lbs/inch for each inch>5ft.
Large	+10%	+10%

Body Mass Index (BMI)

Among physicians and health care workers, Body Mass Index is most often used as a predictor of body fat. BMI is the ratio between an individual's weight, and the square of his or her height, and is reported as kg/m².

The BMI associated with the lowest incidence of morbidity and mortality, and is therefore considered as normal, is between 18 and 25. Overweight is defined as a BMI between 25 and 30; for obesity, BMI is more than 30.

For Asians, this classification has been modified--the normal BMI is only up to 23. The individual is already overweight if BMI is between 23 and 25, and obese if BMI is more than 25.

Classification of Adult Obesity According to BMI

BMI	W.H.O.	Asia Pacific
18.5 - 24.9	Healthy	
18.5 - 23		Healthy
23 - 25		"At risk"
25 - 29.9	Pre-obese	Obese I
30 - 34.9	Obese I	Obese II
35 - 39.9	Obese II	
40 +	Obese III	

Waist Circumference

For Asians, waist circumference is more predictive of body fat excess, and is most useful if BMI is less than 35. One is considered obese if he or she exceeds the cut-off values of 102 cm for men, and 88 cm for women.

Waist to hip Ratio

Values are also gender-specific:
Males: > 1.0 Waist to hip ratio
Female: > 0.85 Waist to hip ratio

THE BURDENS OF OBESITY

"How cute naman!"

We often hear this being said of infants and toddlers who are bursting with extra fat and walking Roly-polys. Yes indeed, they look very good at this early stage, but soon in grade school, the "cute" description becomes a teasing *"Tabatsoy"* and *"Babsky"* and worse to a derisive *"Baboy!"* Here begins the psychological burden of obesity, eventually resulting in poor self-image and low self-esteem. Small wonder then that obesity is associated with lower educational achievement, increased unemployment, and underemployment.

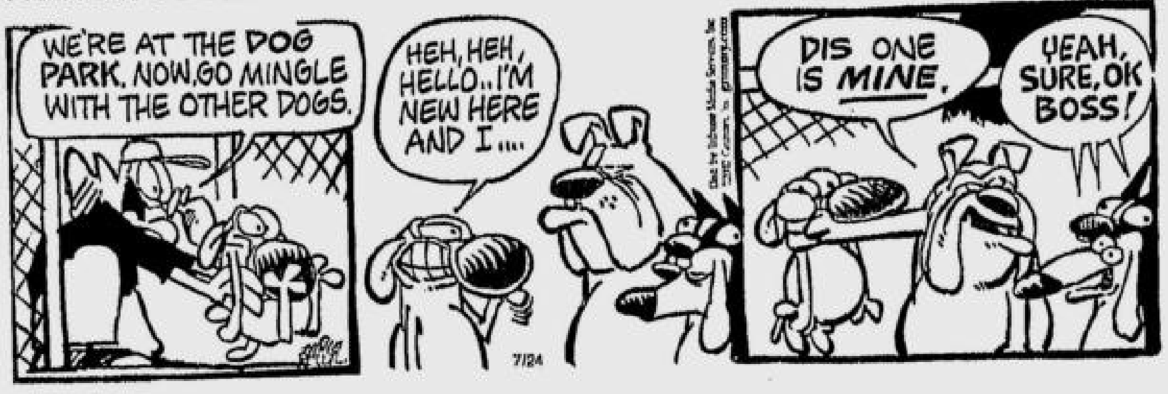
The psychological impact of obesity is already overwhelming, but the medical problems linked with it are mind-boggling: increase incidence of diabetes, gallstones, arthritis, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, heart diseases, and even cancer, mostly of the reproductive or gastrointestinal organs.

So next time you feel the craving for another of those cheeseburgers to be downed with refillable glasses of soft drinks and bottomless ice tea, think of these excess calories being converted into fat in your system, bringing you one step at a time closer to that silent, soft killer: *Obesity.*

** Dr. Estrellita Lopez, a Cum Laude graduate of Medicine, is Assistant Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of SantoTomas.*

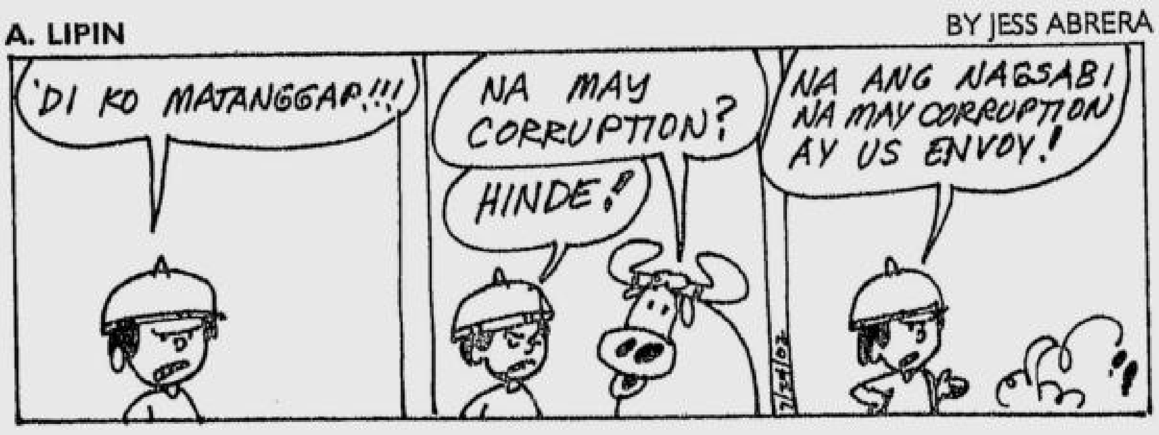
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WE'RE AT THE DOG PARK. NOW, GO MINGLE WITH THE OTHER DOGS.
HEH, HEH, HELLO.. I'M NEW HERE AND I....
DIS ONE IS MINE.
YEAH, SURE, OK BOSS!
7/24

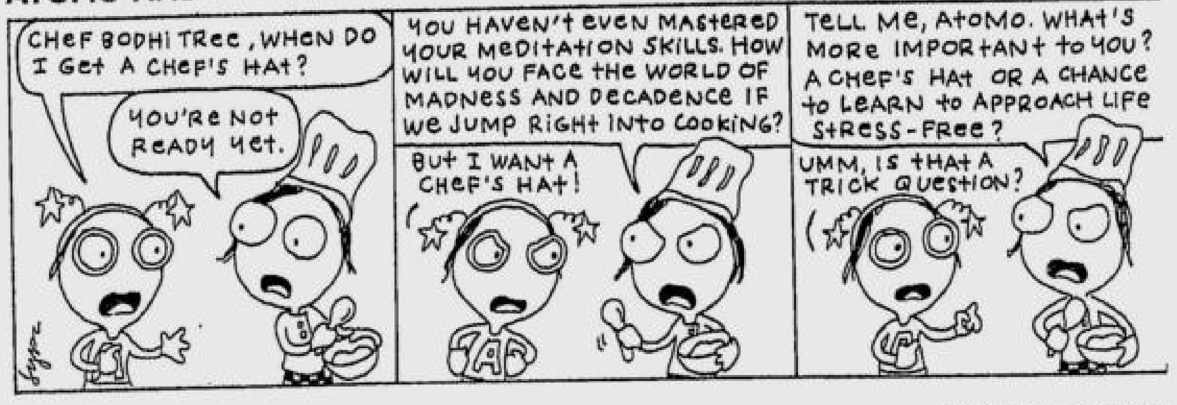
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI KO MATANGGAP!!!
NA MAY CORRUPTION?
HINDE!
NA ANG NAGSABI NA MAY CORRUPTION AY US ENVOY!

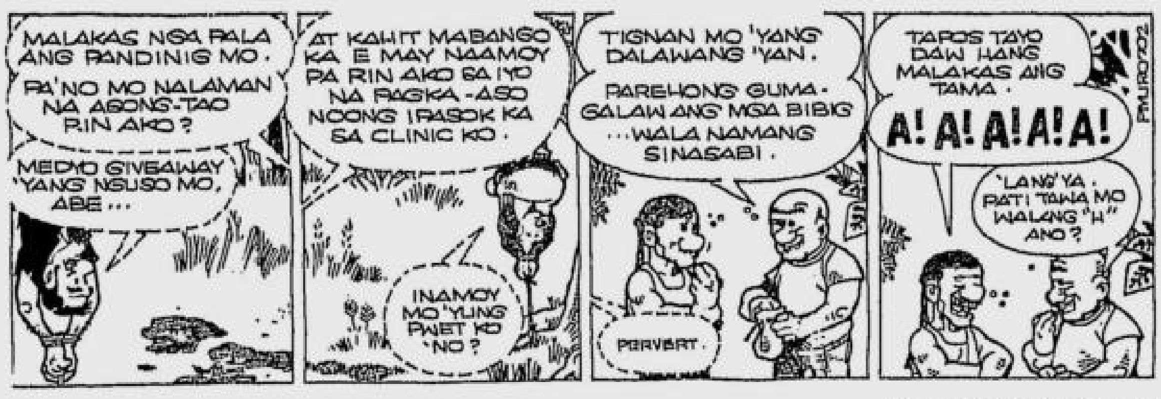
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


CHEF BODHI TREE, WHEN DO I GET A CHEF'S HAT?
YOU'RE NOT READY YET.
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN MASTERED YOUR MEDITATION SKILLS. HOW WILL YOU FACE THE WORLD OF MADNESS AND DECADENCE IF WE JUMP RIGHT INTO COOKING?
BUT I WANT A CHEF'S HAT!
TELL ME, ATOMO. WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU? A CHEF'S HAT OR A CHANCE TO LEARN TO APPROACH LIFE STRESS-FREE?
UMM, IS THAT A TRICK QUESTION?

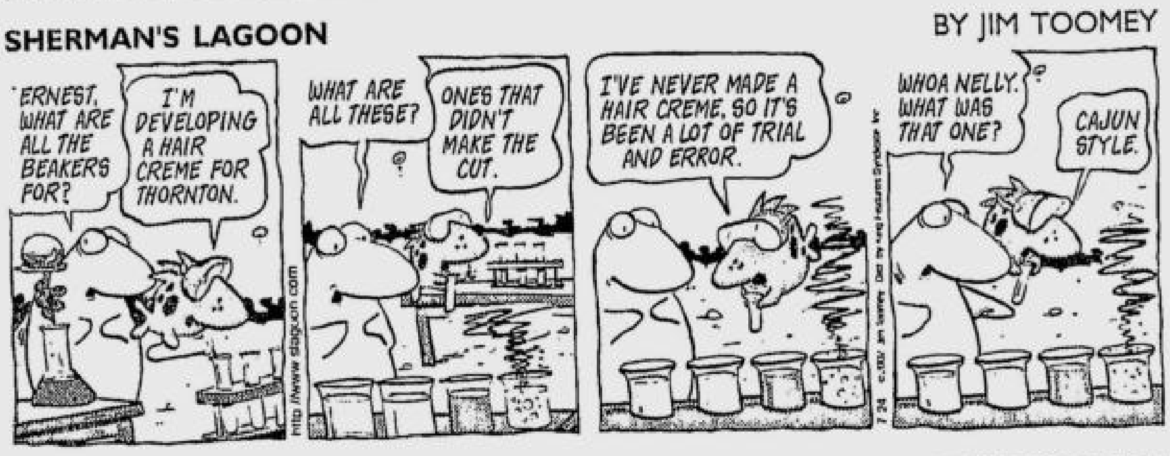
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MALAKAS NGA PALA ANG PANDINIG MO.
PA'NO MO NALAMAN NA ASONG-TAO RIN AKO?
MEDYO GIVEAWAY 'YANG NGUSO MO, ABE...
AT KAHIT MABANGO KA E MAY NAAMOY PA RIN AKO SA IYO NA PAGKA-ASO NOONG IPASOK KA SA CLINIC KO.
INAMOY MO 'YUNG PWET KO 'NO?
TIGNAN MO 'YANG DALAWANG 'YAN.
PAREHONG GUMA-GALAW ANG MGA BIBIG ...WALA NAMANG SINASABI.
PERVERT.
TAPOS TAYO DAW HANG MALAKAS ANG TAMA.
A! A! A! A! A!
'LANG'YA. PATI TAWA MO WALANG "H" ANO?

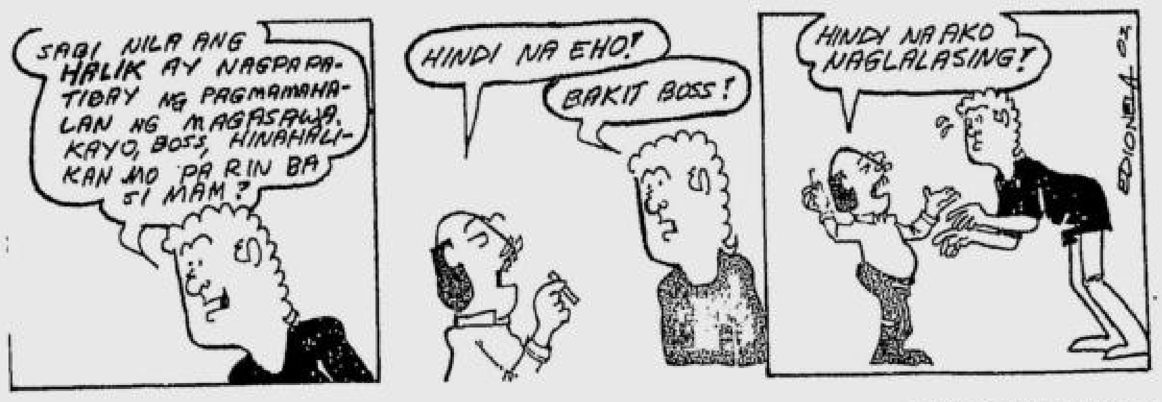
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


ERNEST, WHAT ARE ALL THE BEAKERS FOR?
I'M DEVELOPING A HAIR CREME FOR THORNTON.
WHAT ARE ALL THESE?
ONES THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE CUT.
I'VE NEVER MADE A HAIR CREME, SO IT'S BEEN A LOT OF TRIAL AND ERROR.
WHOA NELLY. WHAT WAS THAT ONE?
CAJUN STYLE.
http://www.slagoon.com

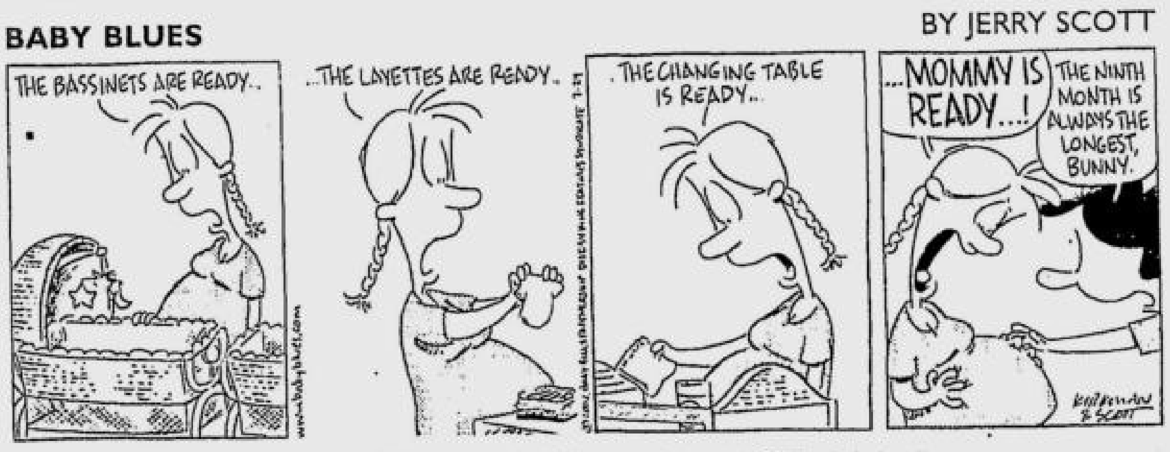
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SABI NILA ANG HALIK AY NAGPAPATIBAY NG PAGMAMAHALAN NG MAGASAWA. KAYO, BOSS, HINAHALIKAN MO PA RIN BA SI MAM?
HINDI NA EHO!
BAKIT BOSS!
HINDI NA AKO NAGLALASING!
EDIONELA

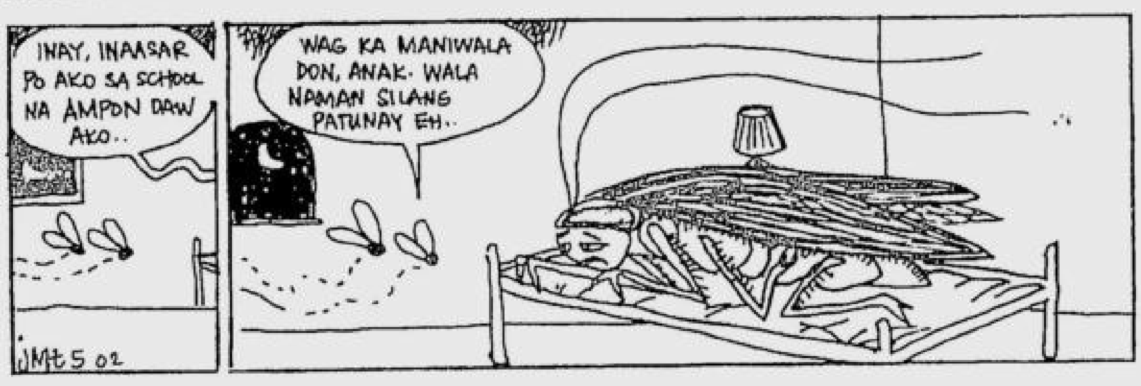
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THE BASSINETS ARE READY..
..THE LAYETTES ARE READY..
..THE CHANGING TABLE IS READY..
...MOMMY IS READY...!
THE NINTH MONTH IS ALWAYS THE LONGEST, BUNNY.
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, INAASAR PO AKO SA SCHOOL NA AMPON DAW AKO..
WAG KA MANIWALA DON, ANAK. WALA NAMAN SILANG PATUNAY EH..
JMt 5 02

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paul Geary, Ruth Buzzi, Lynda Carter, Amelia Earhart

Happy Birthday: You'll be quite the genius this year. You have what it takes to make things happen. Your energy level will be high and your creative ability in full swing. This is the year to try your hand at something new. It's a year of progress. Your numbers are 6, 19, 23, 27, 39, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't back down from anyone, regardless of who he is. You should fight for your rights. You are likely to get involved in intrigues that could lead to an interesting but uncertain situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you are feeling a little bored with what you are currently doing, look for a more unconventional job or hobby. Use your creative talents today to come up with what satisfies you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will easily win hearts. You will actively pursue pleasure, and should be able to strike up a new relationship or a closer bond with the person you are involved with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have an eye for investments today. You will spend your cash on items that will enhance your home. You will do well in industries that deal with services and food.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You must give your partner a chance to explain what he or she has been doing. Learn to bend and compromise and all will be OK.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have a great interest in expanding your mind through the communication you're involved in. If you join an organization that has the same beliefs you have, you are likely to form lasting friendships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will see yourself clearly today and, as a result, you'll make improvements that will enhance your attitude and your appearance. Your ability to help others will bring you admiration and popularity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will experience drastic changes in one of your friendships today. Anger and resentment will lead to terminating this connection. Travel will pay off and give you information that will help you close a deal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your intuition will be good today and your ability to understand the needs of friends and relatives uncanny. Don't, however, try to deal with issues that are not in your territory.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will find ways to earn money and take care of yourself by using your powerful imagination and following through with your plans. Conversation will be your forte.

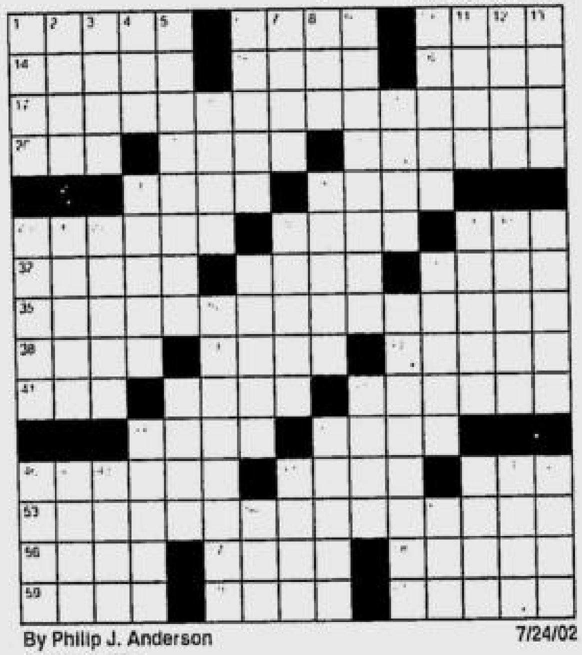
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be bound and determined to do as you please today. You will be sensitive and unwilling to take advice from others. Your increased energy should be put to good use.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will enjoy spending time with family today, but you will also need quiet time to sort out your thoughts. Past romantic flames may try to make a comeback.

Birthday Baby: No one will be able to take his eyes off of you for many reasons. It will be hard to know what you're going to do next, and you'll be so engaging that you will certainly attract attention. You are clever, energetic and curious.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



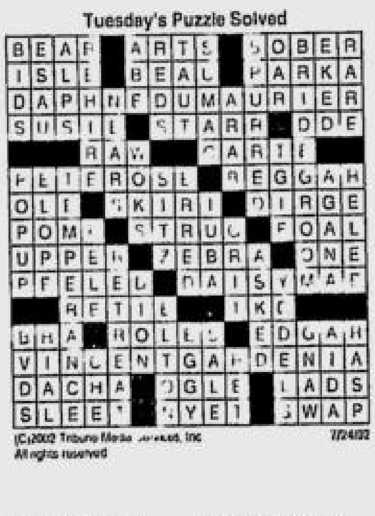
By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

7/24/02

ACROSS
1 "Coming of Age in __"
6 Manipulator
10 Capital of Manche
14 Homeric opus
15 "Little Man __"
16 Greenish blue
17 So-so round?
20 Wind dir.
21 Banana wrapper
22 Satellites' paths
23 Have top billing
24 Bars in Belgravia
25 Fix
28 Boxlike vehicles
29 Draft letters
32 January in Juarez
33 __ it the truth?
34 Eight: It.
35 So-so sales?
38 Boy with a bow
39 O'Flaherty or Neeson
40 Decal brand
41 Gene Kelly film, "__ Girls"
42 Turner and Williams
43 One who makes faces
44 Vatican's only neighbor
45 Subdivision division
46 What we will?
49 Excursion
50 USSR jet
53 So-so exchange
56 Director Kazan
57 Streetcar
58 Turning part
59 "Portnoy's Complaint" author
60 Parched
61 Frighten

DOWN
1 Mini drinks
2 Shakespearean lament
3 Bog
4 Clumsy clod
5 Ratification
6 Say
7 Humorist Mort
8 Summer in Toulon
9 Election challenges
10 Torn tickets
11 Garr of "Tootsie"
12 Endure
13 Corrida cheers
18 Backside
19 Poetic peepers
23 Calcutta wraps
24 "2001..." airline
25 Defy authority
26 Harden
27 Mexican money
28 Passport stamps
29 Wounded by a wasp
30 Financial share
31 Energy type
33 Stage whisper
34 Plains tribe
36 Components
37 Coup group
40 Oz dog
43 DLII times II
44 Indian bigwig
45 Mild-flavored seaweed
46 Fulda tributary
47 By oneself
48 Pompous person
49 Romany title
50 First name in spying
51 Stravinsky or Sikorsky
52 Co-star of "Pretty Woman"
54 Before, to a bard
55 Mythical bird

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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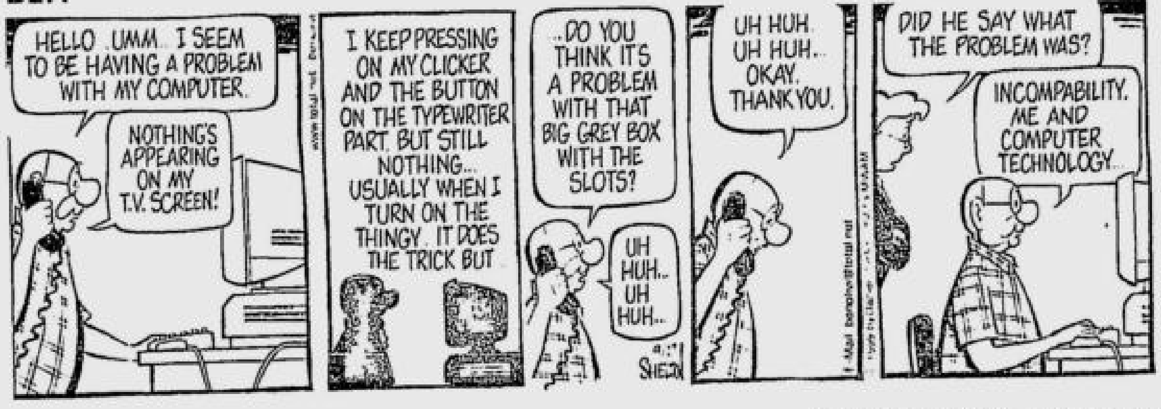
7/24/02

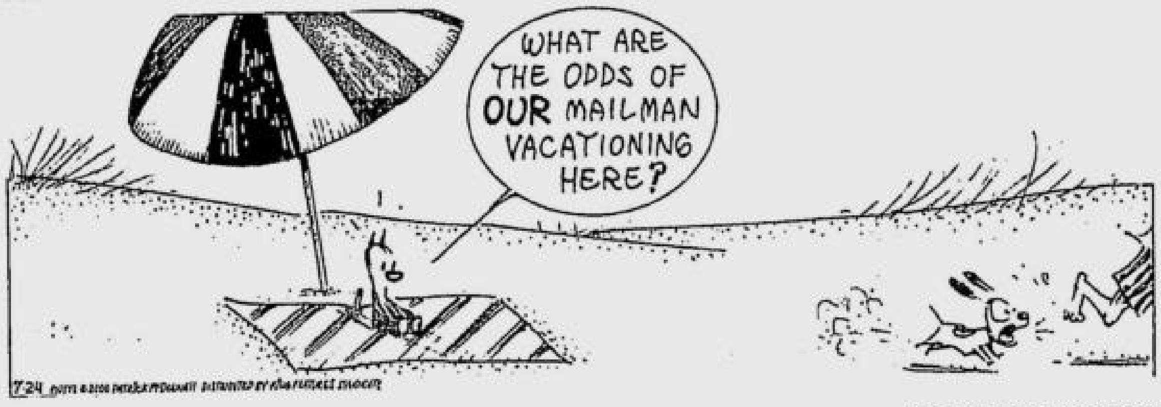
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELLO. UMM.. I SEEM TO BE HAVING A PROBLEM WITH MY COMPUTER.
NOTHING'S APPEARING ON MY T.V. SCREEN!
I KEEP PRESSING ON MY CLICKER AND THE BUTTON ON THE TYPEWRITER PART. BUT STILL NOTHING... USUALLY WHEN I TURN ON THE THINGY, IT DOES THE TRICK BUT
..DO YOU THINK IT'S A PROBLEM WITH THAT BIG GREY BOX WITH THE SLOTS?
UH HUH.. UH HUH..
UH HUH. UH HUH.. OKAY. THANK YOU.
DID HE SAY WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS?
INCOMPABILITY. ME AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY..
SHELTON

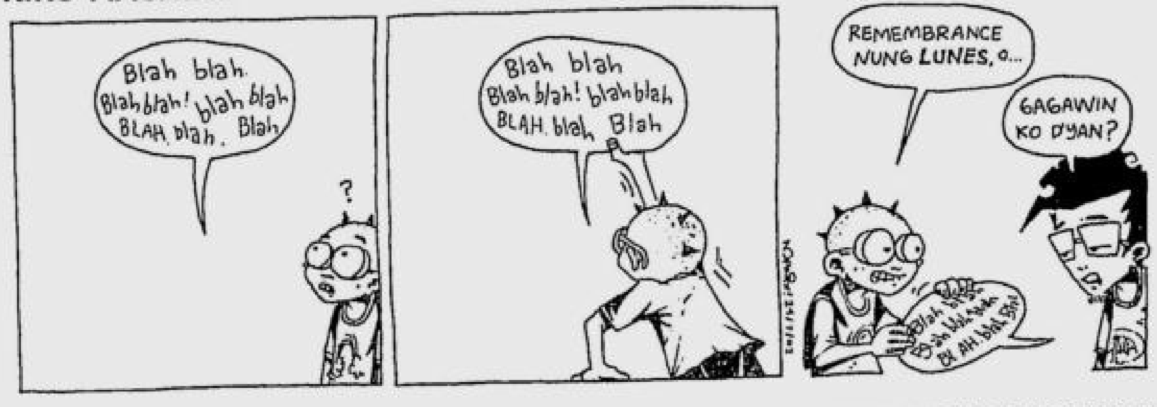
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF OUR MAILMAN VACATIONING HERE?
7.24

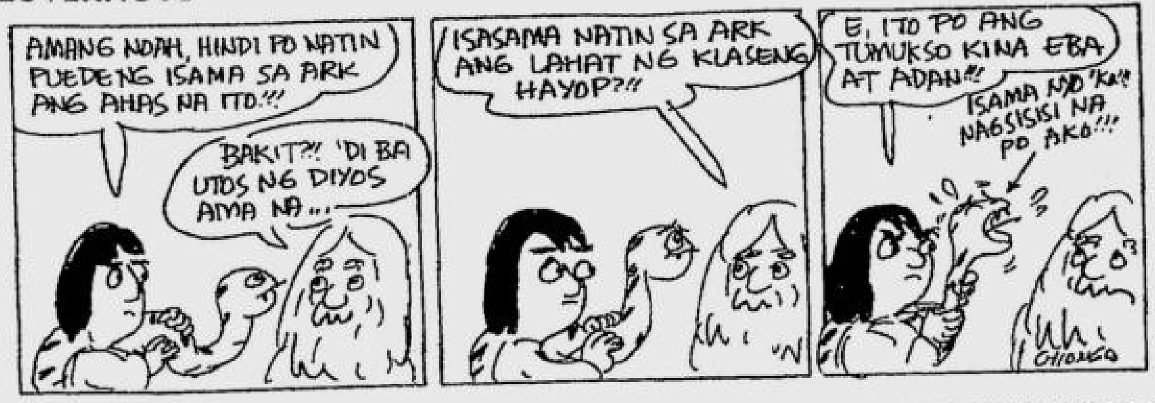
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Blah blah. Blah blah! blah blah BLAH. blah. Blah
?
Blah blah Blah blah! blah blah BLAH. blah Blah
REMEMBRANCE NUNG LUNES, O...
GAGAWIN KO D'YAN?

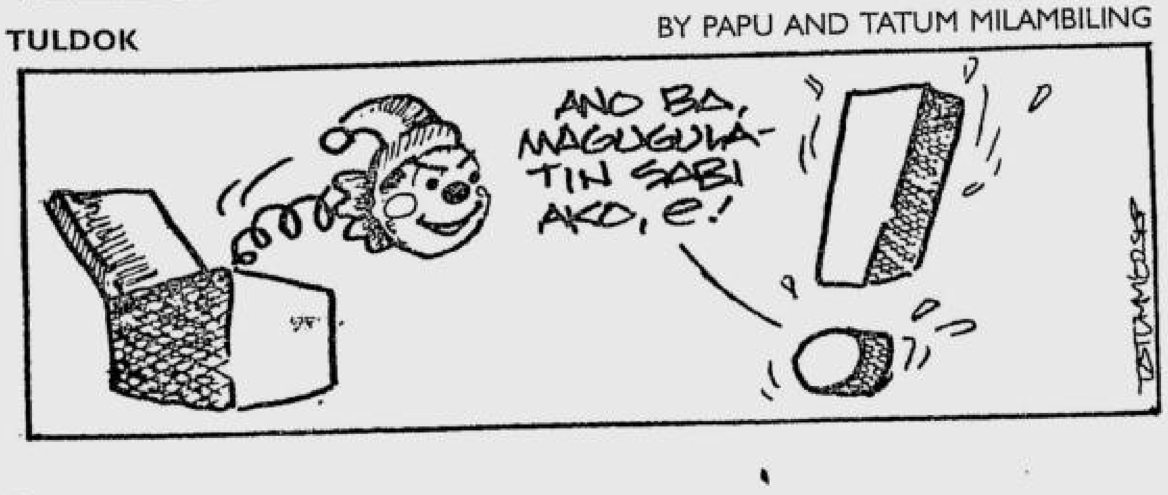
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AMANG NOAH, HINDI PO NATIN PUEDENG ISAMA SA ARK ANG AHAS NA ITO?!!
BAKIT?!! 'DI BA UTOS NG DIYOS AMA NA...
ISASAMA NATIN SA ARK ANG LAHAT NG KLASENG HAYOP?!!
E, ITO PO ANG TUMUKSO KINA EBA AT ADAN!!
ISAMA NYO 'KA!! NAGSISISI NA PO AKO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANO BA, MAGUGULATIN SABI AKO, E!

Priceless moments for controversial cager

By Jules Alcantara
2bU! Correspondent

La Salle's BJ Manalo says God, family and friends make his day

THERE was a time in recent UAAP history when banners and streamers headlined the bleachers. They said, "*Magkano ka, BJ?*" or some other offensive sign revolving around the same theme.

The crowds jeered, "*Mukhang pera! Mukhang pera!*" every time BJ Manalo stepped on the court or took a shot.

It seemed that this, among other things, was the price BJ Manalo, former Blue Eagle, had to pay for his decision to enter De La Salle University and play for the Green Archers.

In an interview, he said that even his family was not spared.

But the costly decision had its rewards.

Last year, in the Ateneo-La Salle championship, BJ responded with a series of three-point shots in response to the jeers that were reverberating in the Araneta Coliseum. When he was sidelined due to an injury, his detractors rejoiced. Virtually written off, he bounced back just in time to significantly contribute in the rubber match between the archrivals that spelled victory for DLSU. And who can forget that picture of him and Enrico Villanueva, his former teammate, locked in a tight embrace during the dying seconds of that game?

Despite all the jeers and innuendoes, BJ decided to take the wiser route and just let everything slide. Caught between being damned either way, BJ ignored all the heckling and went on to become one of the more admirable figures in the UAAP games. The price he had to pay led to many priceless moments.

Asked by 2bU! what he would consider his priceless moments, BJ Manalo said:

"There are a lot of priceless things for me, but the most important is my relationship with the Lord. Without it, I think I would be lost. Through all the tough times in my life, He was there and He showed me that everything I went through had a purpose. Everything had its reason. Every trial, every struggle, is part of His perfect plan for me. If I hadn't accepted Him into my life, my life would have been a mess.

"Priceless *rin 'yung* relationship *ko* with my family. I wouldn't exchange that. They've been there for me. They've been my inspiration and guide in everything!

"My relationship with friends is also priceless. Knowing that I have them makes me realize that I am not alone—that I have people I can share my troubles and happiness with.

"I also consider priceless my relationship with my girlfriend. Being with her, I also get to know the Lord more, *nagtutulungan kami para* we can be His instruments. The partnership that we have I can not compare to anything. I couldn't ask for anything more."

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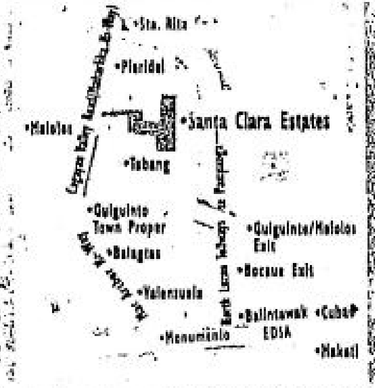

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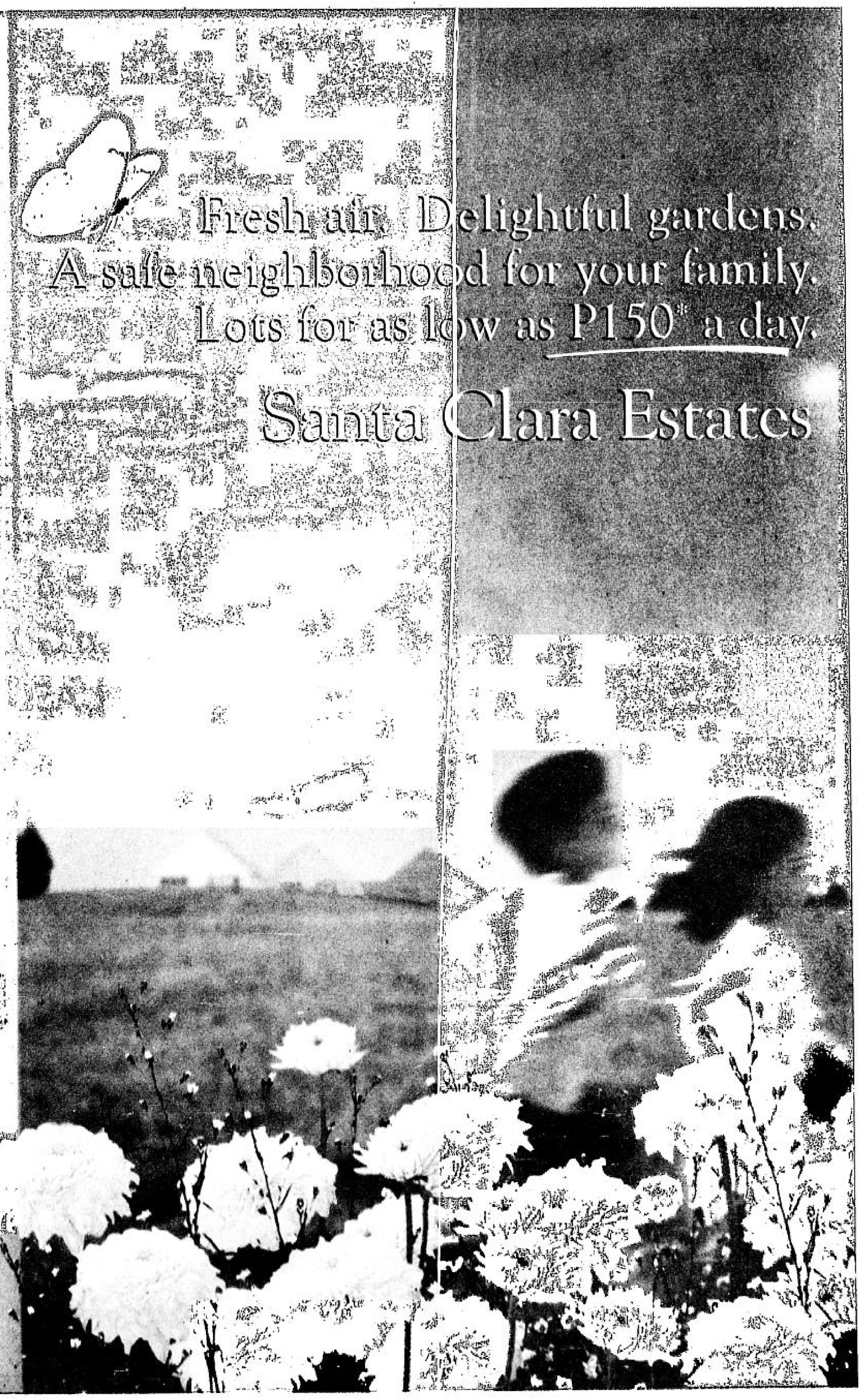
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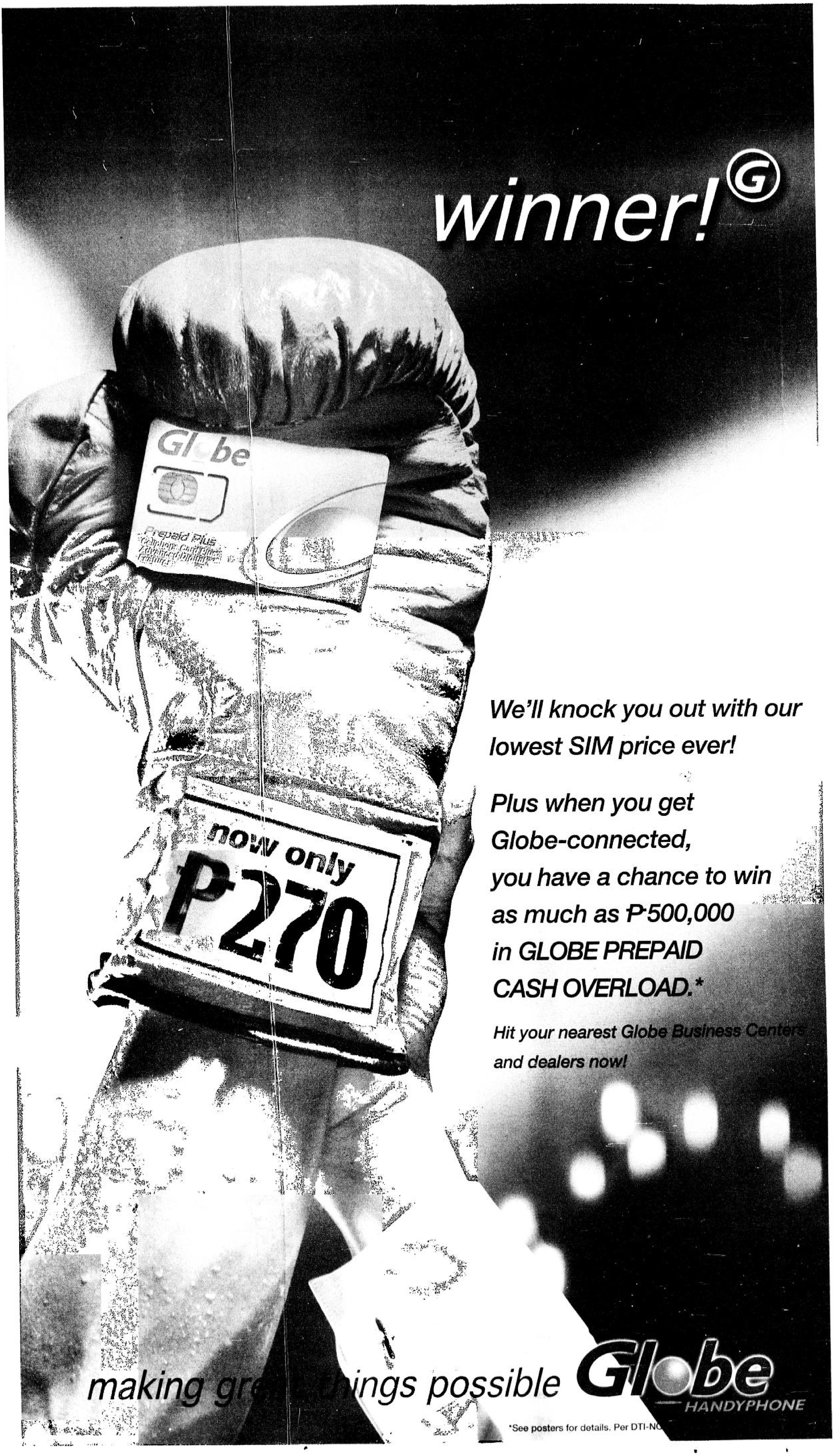

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Putting their best foot forward on court

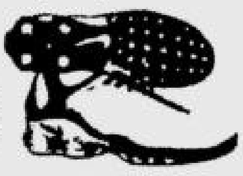
By Dexter R. Matilla
2bU! Correspondent

2bU!'s resident foot fetishist puts himself in the shoes of the UAAP's hardcourt heroes

THERE is a saying that clothes make the man. In basketball, however, the shoes make the player. Shoes make a big impact on the court. On-court performance, traction and ankle support are just some of the factors that athletes consider when choosing the right shoes. So if you want to be as slick as your favorite UAAP heroes on the court, here are some of the top-of-the-line shoes that they wear during the games.

VC Shox Low (Nike)

This shoe is the low-cut version of the VC Shox Mid. It has shock-absorbing cushioning units in the heels and the forefoot.



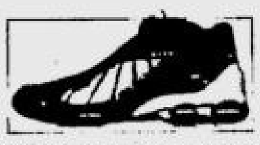
Key technologies:

- Combination mesh and plush molded KNG leather features a hidden eye-stay for a smooth look.
- The full-length Phylon midsole features an exposed, injected heel support counter to add stability.
- Forefoot and heel Nike Shox cushioning units deliver the ultimate in court cushioning.
- Solid-rubber outsole includes an exposed TPU injected midfoot support shank, while sporting a maximum-traction, herringbone-pattern outsole.

Who wears it: Mark Abadia—Adamson Falcons

Shox BB4 (Nike)

This is the first shoe that incorporated the shox technology. Inspired by aerospace engineering, the technology-packed Nike Shox BB4 will definitely take your game to new heights. This was the shoe worn by Vince Carter before the VC shox.

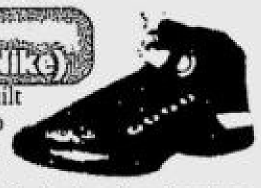


Key technologies:

- The top plate distributes impact forces from the heel to the individual Nike Shox columns.
- The columns provide the highest level of impact protection and energy return.
- Transition wedge allows for a smooth ride from the heel to the forefoot.
- A molded, lightweight synthetic leather upper surrounds a form-fitting internal bootie.
- Double lasting delivers greater stability and fit.

Who wears it: Alwyn Espiritu and Jemal Vizcarra—UST Growling Tigers

Jordan 17 Mid (Jordan Brand-Nike)



Inspired by MJ and built for all those who want to perform at the highest level. The rich, full-grain leather upper with full-grain leather lizard emboss and midfoot cover provide customized, supportive fit; foambacked Lycra collar for increased comfort. The foam-backed fat laces provide snug fit. It has a lightweight Phylonmidsole with blow-molded heel Air-Sole unit and forefoot Zoom Air unit. Its TPU heel stabilizer provides heel and ankle support. The full-length composite shank plate provides increased arch support and prevents turf toe. It has a solid rubber outsole with a strategically placed sticky rubber.

Who wears it: Mike Bravo—UP Fighting Maroons, Manny Ramos—DLSU Green Archers

Jordan 17 Low (Jordan Brand-Nike)

A low-cut version of the Jordan 17 Mids, this is the same shoe that Michael Jordan wore during last year's All-Star game where, unfortunately, he missed a fastbreak dunk. My personal favorite.

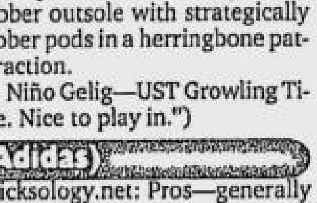
Key Technologies:

- Rich, full-grain leather upper combines with molded synthetic leather for a smooth look.
- A TPU bumper and TPU eyestay add durability.
- A TPU heel stabilizer offers increased stability.
- A TPU midsole with a low-pressure visible heel Air-Sole unit offers protection from impact.
- Carved solid-rubber outsole with strategically placed sticky rubber pods in a herringbone pattern enhances traction.

Who wears it: Niño Gelig—UST Growling Tigers ("Comfortable. Nice to play in.")

Climacool (Adidas)

According to Kicksology.net: Pros—generally comfortable, good midfoot support, does feel cooler than a conventional shoe; Cons—lack of durability in interface between midsole and outsole; fit could be better.



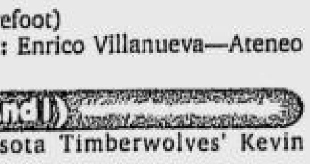
Key Technologies:

- 360-degree ventilation system (a.k.a. ClimaCool)
- Vented ClimaCool sockliner
- Torsion
- adiPRENE+ (forefoot)

Who wears it: Enrico Villanueva—Ateneo Blue Eagles

KG Select (And1)

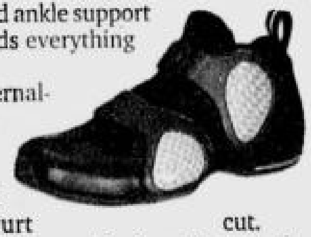
This is Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett's signature shoe from And1. It combines clean-cut style and performance, using And1's Harmonix technology. According to Kicksology.net, this shoe offers very good cushioning and stability, good comfort, very good fit despite being on the heavy side.



Who wore it: Mike Cortez—DLSU Green Archers

Flightposite 3 (Nike)

Though this shoe looks way too futuristic, its on-court performance is one of the best.



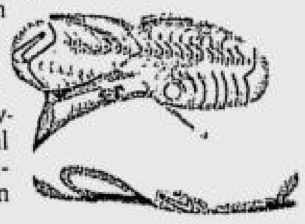
Key Technologies:

- Hyper-thin (3mm) polyurethane. The fully molded Foamposite-constructed upper incorporates medial and lateral side TPU stretch reinforcement straps.
- Upper houses a dynamic-fit Lycra spandex and mesh full-length fit sleeve, while an integrated, injected ankle support eye-stay strap holds everything together.
- The midsole's internalized sock plate and Zoom Air units in the forefoot and heel cushion every court cut.
- The PU-encased Phylon midsole and exposed carbon-fiber midfoot support shank plates stabilize the ride.
- The solid-rubber outsole with maximum traction herringbone pattern allows smooth maneuvers.

Who wears it: Jininio Manansala—UST Growling Tigers

Zoom Flight Turbine (Nike)

New Jersey Nets guard Jason Kidd used this pair of hi-tech shoes last NBA season. This shoe easily reminds me of the Hyperflight. But everything that the Hyperflight lacked in performance, the Turbine more than makes up for.



Key Technologies:

- The combination synthetic leather and mesh upper features a new Cobec shroud covering the internal shoe and a heel-entry lock-down system.
- The speed lacing system locks the foot in over the footbed.
- A lightweight Phylon midsole houses a full-length Zoom Air unit.
- The lightweight solid-rubber outsole with an aggressive traction pattern is stabilized by an exposed TPU-injected midfoot shank.

Who wears it: L.A. Tenorio—Ateneo Blue Eagles, Glenn Manching—UST Growling Tigers

Air Futuristic (Nike)

This shoe is designed for the player wanting to enhance his speed, quickness and hangtime. It has synthetic leather, Lycra spandex and mesh upper with molded medial/lateral side support and hidden eyestay design. It has a lightweight Phylon/polyurethane midsole with visible, large-volume heel Air-Sole unit. It also has a solid rubber outsole with aggressive traction pattern and exposed TPU injected midfoot support shank.

Who wears it: Santiago Cabatu—DLSU Green Archers

Air Max Chosen (Nike)

Key technologies:

- The upper is a combination of synthetic and full-grain leather.
- The lightweight PU midsole houses a large-volume heel Max Air unit for cushioning.
- A solid rubber outsole with a unique, enhanced traction pattern features an exposed TPU midfoot shank plate for enhanced stability.

Who wears it: The FEU Tamaraws (it's their official team shoe) and some of the UE Red Warriors. ("It's ok because you don't need to break it in because it is already soft and made of soft leather."—Jerard Jones)

Tai-Chi Mid (And1)

According to Kicksology.net, the Tai Chi Mid is lightweight. It also provides good ankle support. But it could definitely stand some improvement in cushioning, stability and midfoot support.

Who wears it: Willy Wilson—DLSU Green Archers, Anthony Urbano—NU Bulldogs

Shox Stunner (Nike)

The Nike Shox Stunner may not be stunning in terms of looks, but when it comes to performance, this shoe takes the cake.

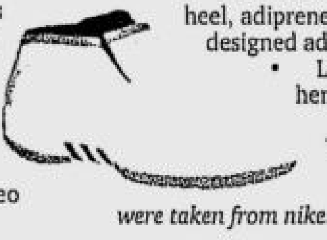
Key technologies:

- The lightweight synthetic leather upper with a Lycra spandex sleeve supplies an ultra-comfortable, dynamic fit.
- A TPU stretch cage gives medial and lateral support, while the fully integrated ankle support strap with anti-inversion structure, along with the injected heel counter, delivers sure-fire stability.
- The lightweight Phylon midsole houses an exposed Nike Shox heel cushioning unit and a forefoot Zoom Air unit.
- A solid-rubber outsole features an enhanced traction pattern and optimal-motion flex grooves.

Who wears it: Jeck Chia—Ateneo Blue Eagles

Kobe 2 (Adidas)

Kicksology.net describes it as an excellent all-around shoe, providing very good traction and not having any weakness in any area. Despite these high reviews, the Kobe 2 has been gathering cobwebs in shoe stores due to its appearance. Even Kobe Bryant didn't like its looks so he switched back to "The Kobe" (Kobe 1) during the last NBA season's playoffs. The Kobe 2, however, might be worth something someday as this may be Bryant's final signature shoe with Adidas. Bryant left Adidas just recently, after six years of endorsing the shoe company.



Key Technologies:

- Sleek micro-synthetic material upper with internal lacing system.
- CM-EVA midsole with adiprene unit in heel, adiprene+ unit in forefoot and a redesigned advanced torsion system.
- Low profile carbon rubber herringbone outsole.

Who wears it: Patrick Tiongco—Adamson Falcons

*(*Some pictures and infos were taken from nike.com and kicksology.net)*

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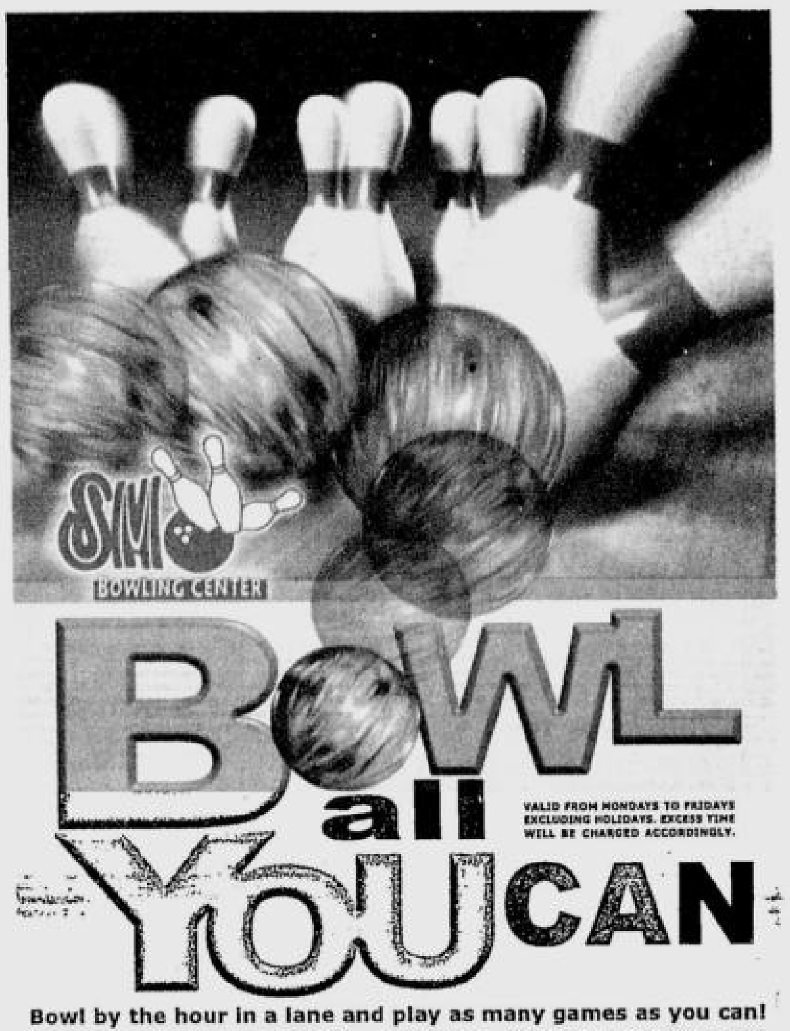
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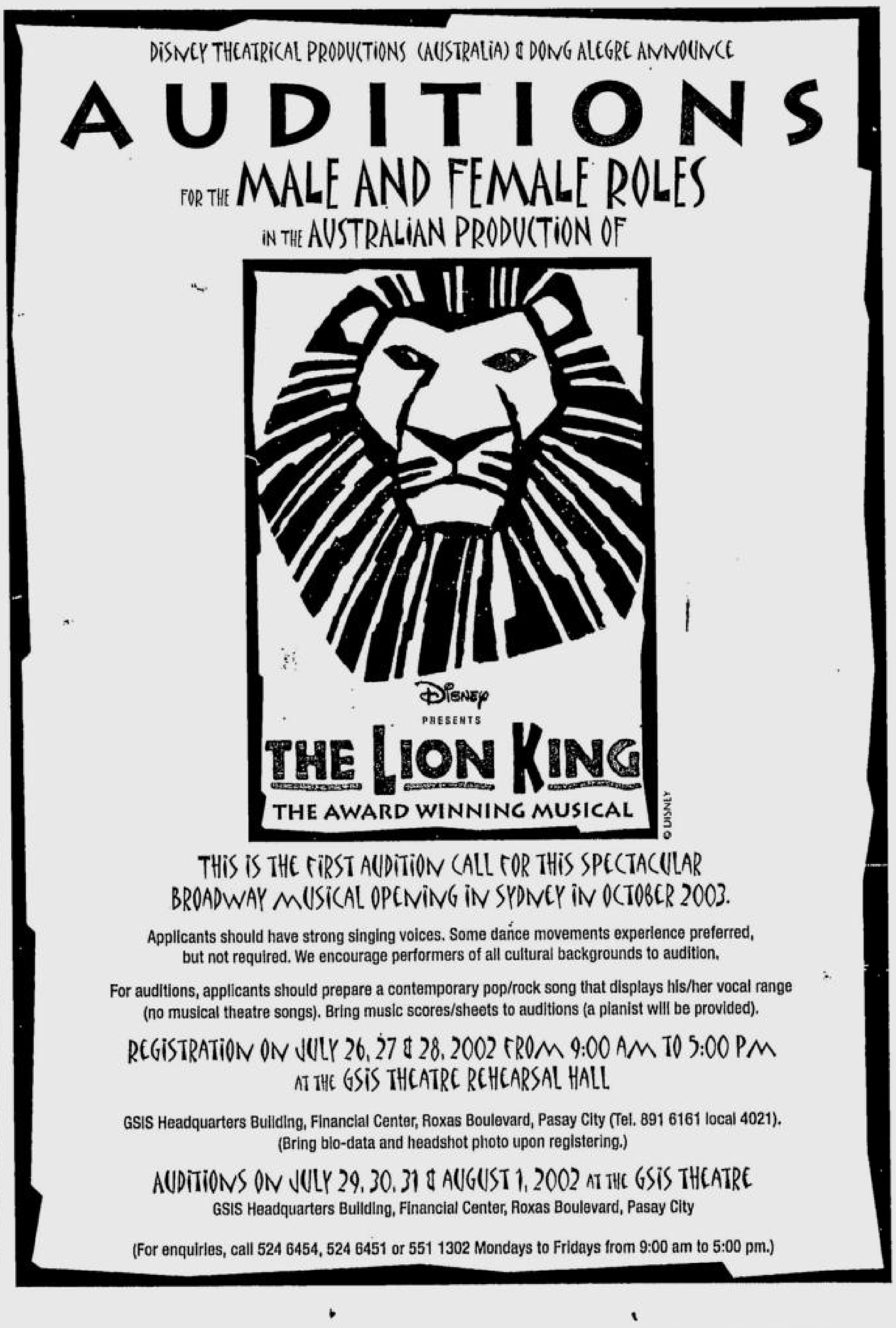
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UAAP Eagles and their muse at the Tent

WHITE hot couple Louie Morante and Kaye Tolome

Froth of *fun*

Tim Yap

"THESE Americans don't know anything about food!" Complained this dashing Italian chef as he ate his salad one rainy night. An American customer in his restaurant was rude when he didn't get his fettuccini Alfredo. The irate Italian went on how different they were in a lot of things—from dressing up to manner of speech and so on.

Last week as the rains started to pour, I braved the Fort to check out Joey 92.3's annual American tribute—the "Froth of July!" Stars and stripes dominated the party venue as free flowing pan-Am delights—burgers and fries from Friday's, Häagen Dazs-ice cream and Colt 45 beer and more—how much more American can you get?

Elsewhere, men were flexing their muscles as they did push ups on stage, with no less than FHM girl **Jennifer Rosendhal** seated on their backs. Guests who wanted to get a high had an Axe rock wall set up by the entrance of the Tent. When I arrived, everybody was dancing to the beat of band Rage, with **Juan Miguel Salvador** and company prancing around the stage like there was no tomorrow! His energy was so contagious that the audience was dancing all throughout their '80s star-spangled set.

As if that wasn't enough, a Northwest Airlines trip to NYC was raffled off, and then fireworks from **Doy Tan's** Starmaker capped the all-American evening. The Joey trio of **Marco Borlongan, Bianne Tupas** and **Cris Golamco** were all smiles as they went around the crowd composed of yuppies and youngsters, all frothing with fun, fun, fun!

A week before that, I hopped by Il Ponticello's "Sicilian mobster" night, also their sizzling anniversary. Men wore slick suits while women wore flapper dresses and '20s gear. The reason? The best looking mobster was bound to take home 50 grand worth of shopping spree from Rustan's! In a two-tone ensemble of suspenders, shoes and hat, with matching tobacco to boot, **Trinchie Floro** bested other style files who wore Godfather fashions to the hilt.

Earlier, a mini fashion show featuring Zegna suits had Ponti regulars and models strutting around the resto's halls, eliciting excitement and cheers from the audience of Ponti-philes and young society mavens.

I went back to Ponti during the heat of the World Cup finals. The restaurant was one of the first places to use their venue as a Fifa viewing spot. There I spotted an American and an Italian, arms around each other, cheering for the same team. One was chugging a beer bottle, the other had a glass of red wine—both were rowdy with excitement rooting for their favorites.

Some of us may not agree on certain things, but if you look closely, we are all one and the same.

PR pretty Ria Romero is now with Joey 92.3

RAGING BULL. Juan Miguel Salvador holds fort at the Tent. PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

OFF TO THE BIG APPLE. Northwest's Adin Gonzalez, John Gutierrez and Joey's Cris Golamco

SICILIAN MOB. Trinchie Floro, Paolo Araneta and Amanda Griffin

MOBSTER HALL. Lev Pe and Mark of Il Ponticello

HIP URBANITES. Gina Mok and Charlie Atienza

GODFATHERS. Ricardo Garcia, Gabby dela Rama and Besa of Ponti

GANGSTA CHICKS. Best dressed Tina Pamintuan and Isabel Engwa

STYLE FILES. Celine Gabriel and Marga Montemayor

FROTH OF FOUR. Don Cunanan, Rovilson and Raphe Fernandez with hostess of the mostest Shaan Bermudez

How effective is licorice as skin whitener?

911

Kinny Salas

I FIRST noticed licorice as a skin-whitening product here in the Philippines in 1997. Back then, the famous whitening agents were tretinoin and hydroquinone which I recommended highly for fading scars. The problem with these products is that one was not allowed to use them during pregnancy or the monthly period, which was when skin discoloration thrived due to hormonal fluctuations. I then tried a local licorice product which showed me good results without the peeling and sore face. My skin tone just became more even, and foundation became an option for me instead of a necessity. My skin was noticeably lighter in seven days of faithful use. I am naturally fair-skinned, though, so *morenas* will take longer for their desired skin tone; perhaps two to three weeks.

Lately, I have noticed other imported skin care products like Neutrogena Fine Fairness Essence face powder and Nivea White, which are both reputable in the skincare industry; name licorice as their effective ingredient. I wondered why it just came out now. I conducted an interview with Godiva's owners Fred and Carleen Reyes on why they decided on licorice before anyone else. Fred and Carleen go back and forth to Japan for business and it turns out the Japanese are fanatical about whitening, and have been using licorice-based products for more than a decade now because it gives faster results without sensitivity problems.

What is licorice?

Licorice is a plant native to parts of Europe and China. Its root extract has been used for hundreds of years as tea and as flavoring. Its tea is also advisable for those prone to hypoglycemia or bloou sugar problems.

How was licorice discovered as a skin whitener? In the early '90s, a Japanese scientist isolated certain compounds in licorice useful for skincare. Glabridin was identified as a powerful whitening ingredient; glabrene as an antioxidant as strong as natural Vitamin E, and lichochalcone as sunscreen effective against UVA and UVB rays. How does licorice whiten skin? The glabridin in licorice whitens by suppressing melanin (dark pigment) formulation that is responsible for skin coloration. Over time, the old layer of pigmented skin is replaced by whiter creamier skin.

What is different about Godiva Licorice? It uses only purified licorice with the highest glabridin content. The extraction procedure is done in Japan because only they have the technology. There are only tiny amounts of glabridin in licorice extract. Japanese technology isolates glabridin and concentrates it to make a powerful whitener.

How effective and fast is licorice as skin whitener?

According to the comparative activity of various skin whiteners in the 1996 report on "Double Blind Controlled Clinical Trial of Licorice Whitening Skin among Filipinos," licorice extract has a rate of activity of 30, Vitamin C (PMG) has 3, hydroquinone has 1.9, Kojie acid has 1.1 and Melawhite has 1. Licorice skin-whitening promises obvious results in seven days while others claim three to four weeks.

What about safety and possible side effects?

It has been used as food additive and flavoring. Japan's FDA approved it as safe for long-term use and they are a lot stricter than Europe and the US. There have been no complaints of allergy, redness or irritation.

How does local Godiva compare to name brand cosmetics like Estee Lauder and Nivea?

We don't know if the imported brands use the same level of purified licorice. But no other brand has claimed faster results.

Can Godiva remedy dark underarms?

Yes, but depending on how dark it may take longer than seven days. This problem is caused by allergy to heavy fragrances and deodorants. Lather underarms with licorice whitening soap; follow with alcohol-free whitening toner (the alcohol in Godiva astringents may react to sensitive skin) and apply whitening cream. Do this in the evening and morning. Wash with whitening soap and follow with licorice whitening deodorant

She wants to end her affair with a married man

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I come from a well-off family with good values, and I have a great career ahead of me.

My world became complicated when I met a 32-year-old man last year through texting. A friend gave me his number and described him as "intelligent and interesting." It was my first time to exchange text messages with a stranger.

He told me he's a government employee, but with a higher position. I refused to believe at first; I thought it was odd that a man of his stature would bother to respond to a text message. But I believed him and was impressed by his credentials. He revealed so much of himself while I hardly said anything about myself. I fumbled each time he called. He's sweet, witty and sensitive at all times. He stirred my curiosity. Judging from his messages, he sounded self-confident, although there was a sense of insecurity in him.

We discovered gradually how attuned we were to each other. But we can never be married for we both have our own families.

Our affair is ongoing despite the fact that his wife has become suspicious; my hubby knows about him already. We were able to momentarily pull the wool over our partner's eyes, but they are not dumb. There are times when we have to remind ourselves painfully and regretfully that he can never be mine, and vice-versa.

It's getting harder for us to keep our relationship a secret. We even thought of living together and leaving our families; I opted not to do so. I know the consequences if ever I'd give in to our plans. It would mean the end of our relationship as well as his career.

I entered his life without realizing there wouldn't be an easy way out. As of this moment, we are just letting our affair run its course. What must we do? How do we get out of this situation?

AME

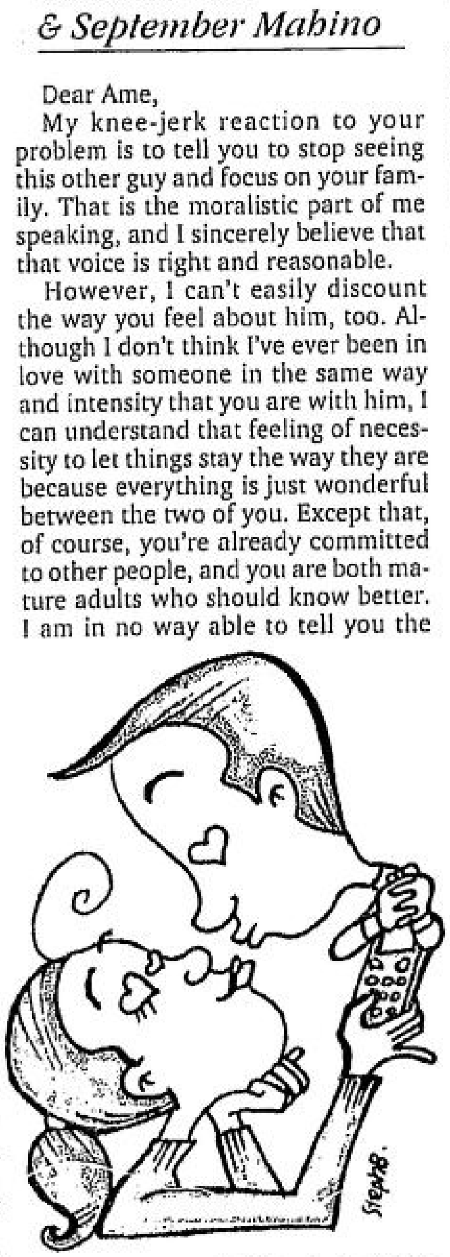
Dear Ame,

My knee-jerk reaction to your problem is to tell you to stop seeing this other guy and focus on your family. That is the moralistic part of me speaking, and I sincerely believe that that voice is right and reasonable.

However, I can't easily discount the way you feel about him, too. Although I don't think I've ever been in love with someone in the same way and intensity that you are with him, I can understand that feeling of necessity to let things stay the way they are because everything is just wonderful between the two of you. Except that, of course, you're already committed to other people, and you are both mature adults who should know better. I am in no way able to tell you the right thing to do. Aside from not experiencing the same feeling, I am also far from being married, which might make my views look quite naïve. If you don't think you could stay away from this guy, my only other advice is to think carefully and seriously about leaving your husband so you can finally make your secret relationship legal or right, or whatever you would like to describe it.

The thing is, you have to act. You can't just let the affair, as you've called it, run its course; how do affairs run their courses, anyway? It's impossible for you to stay married while having a relationship with someone else indefinitely. You can't have it both ways; you have to drop one of them because trying to keep things the way they are, just because it's easier for you, wouldn't be fair to your husband, to his wife and to you. Think over really carefully what you want to happen and then, make a choice. There could possibly be other ways for you to resolve this whole mess and I don't have the insight and experience yet to know what they are. I just hope that you do, and you would make the right decision.

SEP

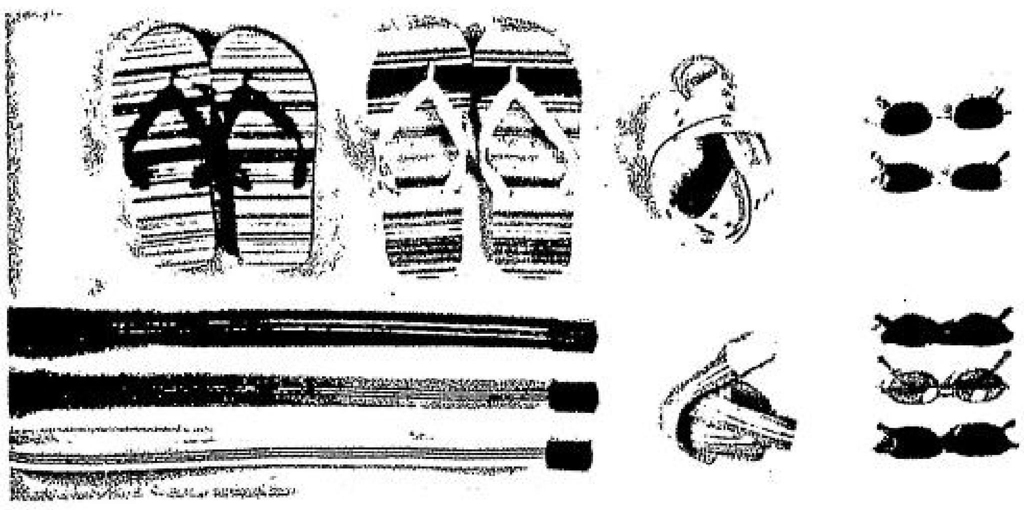


First of all, should we let government employees, and public officials especially, think that text messaging is a viable means of communication when it makes them unmindful of spelling, grammar and the history of words?

Forget a moment that politics and the so-called solons, who are fighting to stay in the game, have been stuck in such stagnant pretense for the last decade or so; the young ones easily having learned the pose and the upturned nose, feigning indignation over reports of kickbacks; stupidly denying rampant graft and corruption in their workplace, and letting unlettered goons and nephews drive single-number plates around on their cars.

Forget for a moment morality as

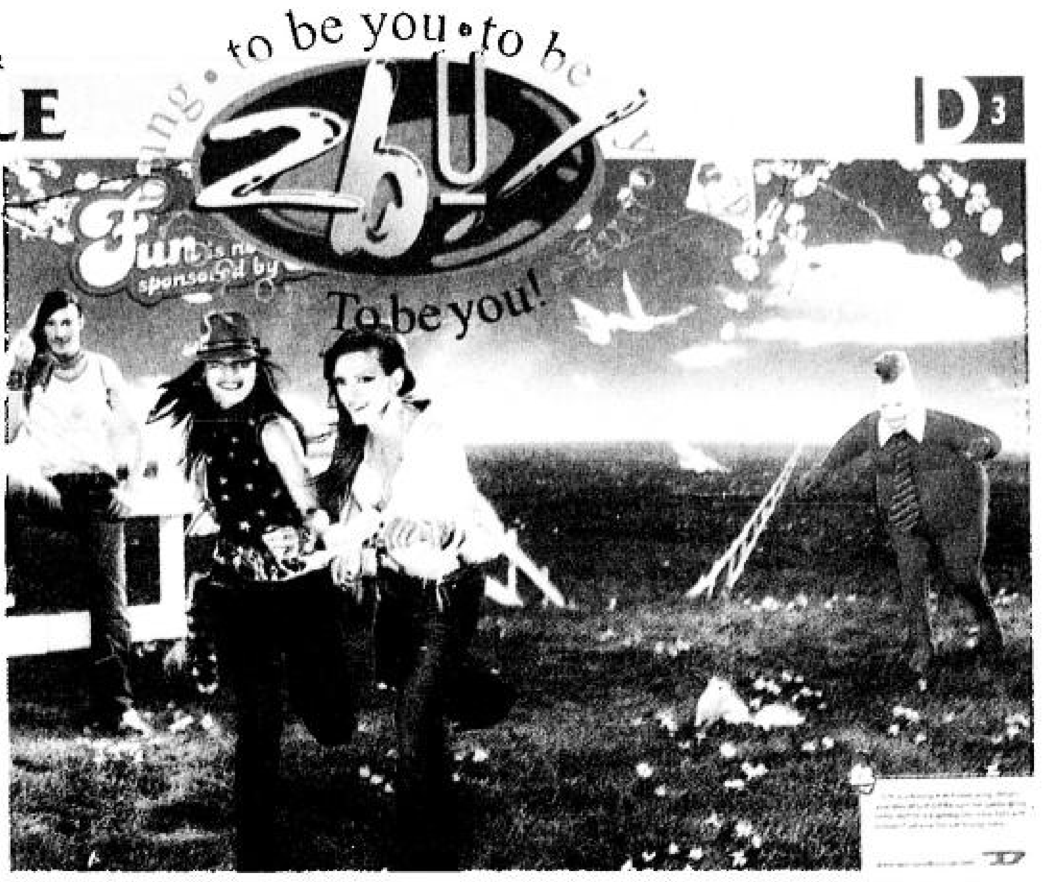
SHE p D3



GO Giordano head-to-toe with these must-have accessories: men's and women's sunglasses, garrison belts and beach-inspired rubber slippers.

For the *shopaholic* in you

YOU might want to check these goodies out the next time you hit the mall.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To be you!

FOR THE SPRING/SUMMER 2002 season, the Diesel collection "Dieseland" is inspired by traveling fun fairs, while the current advertising campaign introduces Donald Diesel, the red mascot that brings you happiness, laughter, fun and passion. Diesel is exclusive-ly distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., with stores located in Glorietta, Ayala Center, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center and Robinsons Galleria.

COMPLEMENTING its successful line of performance eyewear, Oakley is now available in a wide range of ophthalmic-specific frames, which can be fitted into almost any prescription lenses of major optical stores in the country. Oakley prescription frames combine unique sculptural aesthetics with innovations in material and structural technologies like the C-5 performance alloy, unique dimensional earstems and a monolithic chassis for unrivalled durability. Custom-engineered spring hinges maintain a secure fit, and soft Unobtanium earsocks increase grip with moisture.

YELLOW cotton shirt, low rise pants, from SYC; orange shirt with white horizontal stripe by Mickey, loose cropped pants with detailing by San Francisco, denim blouson jacket by Seventeen; lime cotton shirt by San Francisco, reverse vintage wash skirt and black studded belt by SYC

She wants . . .

From page D2

the way Christian societies go. I have many questions as to what exactly the status quo is. What I want to know is, what do pretty, head-turning lasses expect from men today?

Ladies, we can't all be first ladies (though some presidents may have set a precedent). And though this city is undoubtedly congested, and the rule called six degrees of separation tends to bite our bum (more so when bimbos, poseurs and psychos are concerned), we can't all be pinning our fantasies on people whom the public trusts to solve our country's problems when they can't even spell a demonstrative noun!

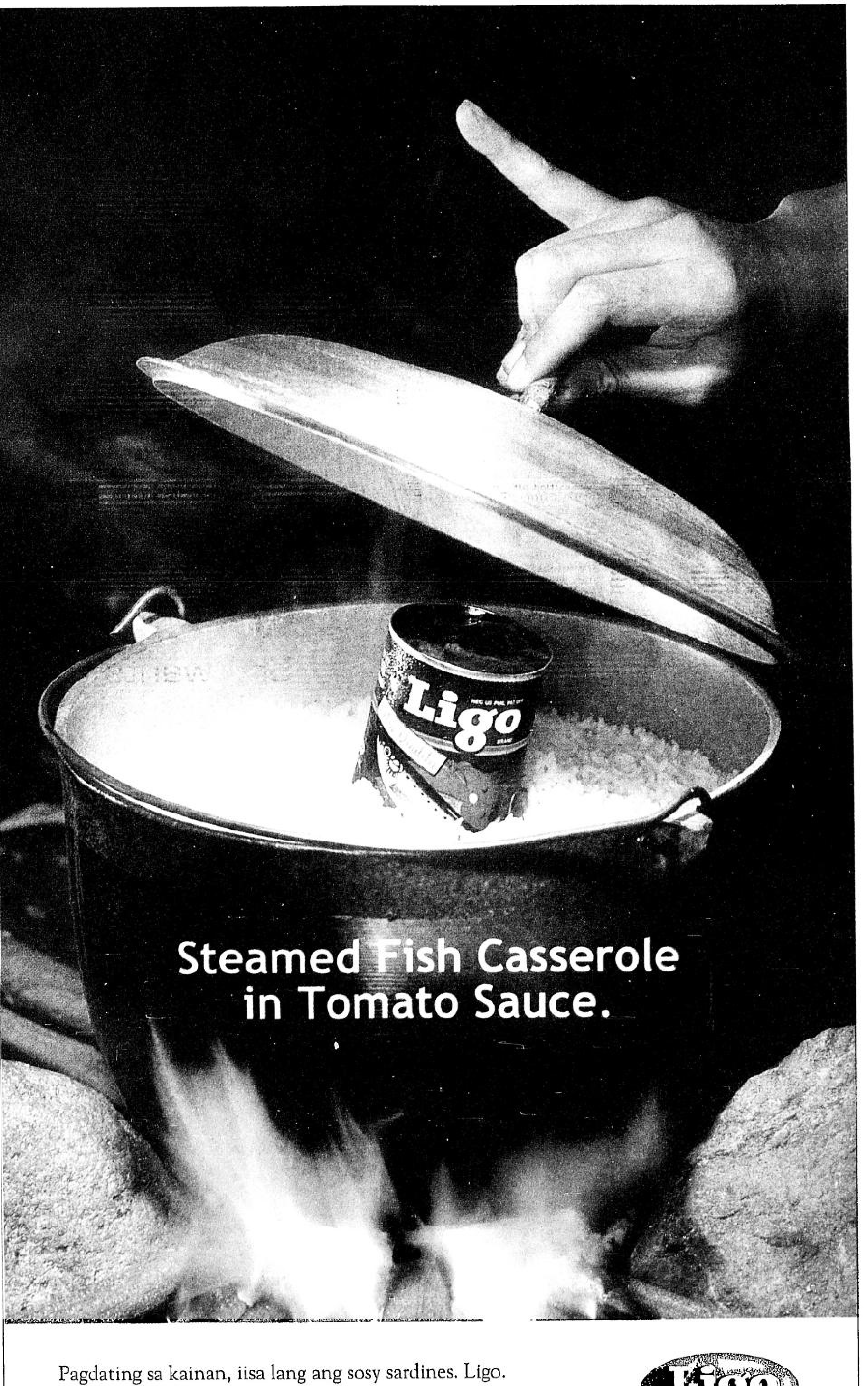
Can a man in this day and age really be expected to demonstrate character using only 160 of them? As sure as my cat is purring in my lap, language is on a tailspin here in the Philippines. And with senators trading verbal thrusts, parries and feints over text, so is politics.

The level of competency in any of the three languages ever to be institutionalized in this country is so mind-numbingly low; I am so confused as to which tongue I'd rather have mangled in my presence. I don't know whether to surrender my pen and paper to the Americans who taught us or to lobby for Jimmy Santos to be education secretary.

Now, politics in the *camara*, and politics of the *cara que lastima*, are just the same. Scripts are rehashed, latching on to the latest parlance of our times, turning the simple formula set in the "poor me" personality into an endearing story of a young boy trapped in a 32-year-old's body. Disgusting. People whose life stories change every year are the exciting ones—the ones to run away with, the ones for whom we feel, deigned by the universe—for whom Danny's song was written. They are the ones with *cara*, or face, also known as character.

And to borrow the *vocce du plume* of Carrie Bradshaw: In a relationship as hedonistic and as selfish as yours, for it to "run its course," are you on the long and winding road of intercourse? Politicians and government employees enjoy power, and that three-letter word, sex, which thankfully leaves little room for contraction and more for expansion, is power. Get it out of your system, and sin no more.

CALOY



Pagdating sa kainan, iisa lang ang sosy sardines. Ligo. Sosy ang quality! Sa taba ng fish, sa super thick sauce at sa lasa -- sosy sa sarap!

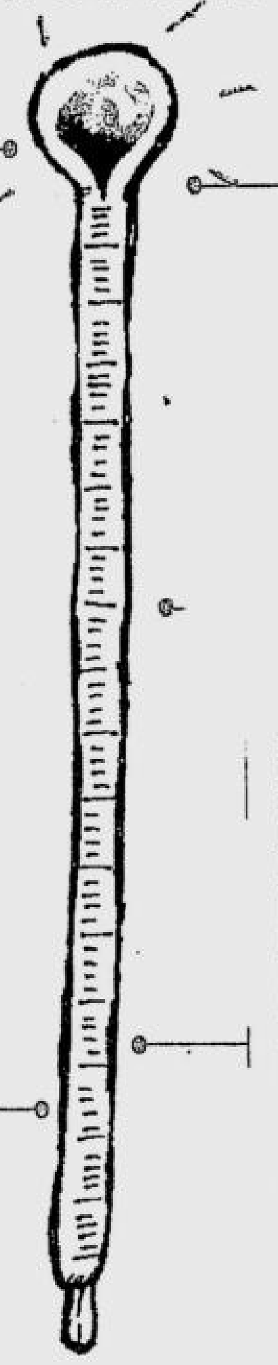
Ligo
The Sosy Sardines

2BU! THERMOMETER

'Sesame Street' gets serious, Janet and Justin get serious together

AIDS gets to "Sesame Street." There are plans to include an HIV-positive female Muppet character on South Africa's "Sesame Street" version. Producers have yet to determine how the character will look like, but said that the script has already been written. They decided to include the HIV element in the show in an effort to help children who live with the disease. The country is estimated to have half a million AIDS orphans.

May-December affairs. If reports are true, then it seems that age doesn't matter much in vain Hollywood. Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart have long been rumored to be going out. Now how about this—Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake? Perhaps Britney, Justin's ex, isn't much of a woman yet for the N'Sync boy.



"Mongodroids." Check out www.fractalcow.com for the first season of Dino Ignacio's animated series of not-so-smart robots. Don't worry, they're all easy to download, unless your computer was made in the '80s.

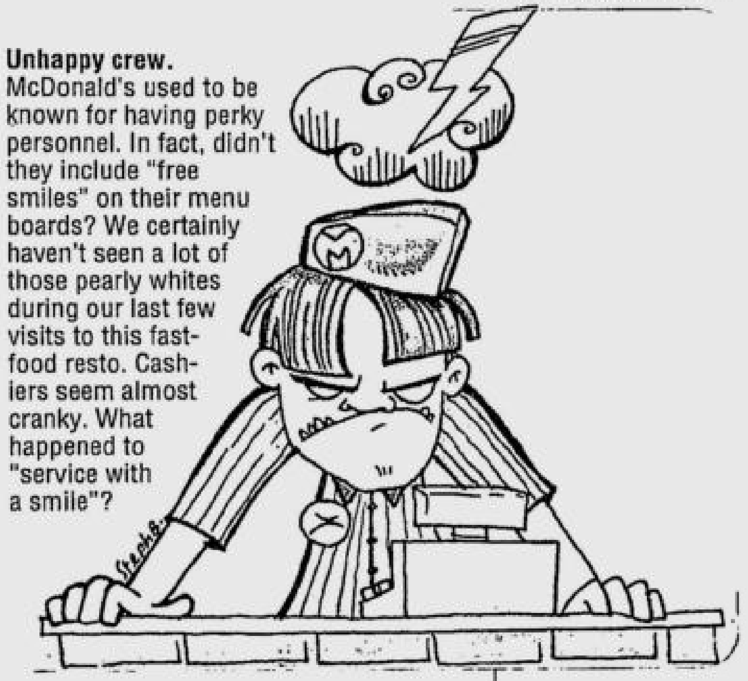
Mahal. We had to hook up to our respirators when we saw Mahal, sporting copper red hair, with her boyfriend on "The Buzz." In a spaghetti top. With low cleavage. Oh, all right. We just can't get over the fact that she has a boyfriend and we don't.

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Marriage or something like it. Yup, it's official, Angelina Jolie and hubby Billy Bob Thornton have separated. Reports have it that since they adopted a Cambodian boy, things have changed between them. We wonder how many guys have begun to line up on Angelina's doorstep.

Stupid question. In a "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" episode last week, one question went: "*Ano ang sikat na laruan*: A) teddy bear, B) heady bear, C) ready bear, D) steady bear?" We know that the first questions have to be easy, but do they have to be stupid?

Unhappy crew. McDonald's used to be known for having perky personnel. In fact, didn't they include "free smiles" on their menu boards? We certainly haven't seen a lot of those pearly whites during our last few visits to this fast-food resto. Cashiers seem almost cranky. What happened to "service with a smile"?



Sharon Osbourne. The matriarch of the MTV hit show, "The Osbournes," has recently been reported to be battling colon cancer. According to Reuters, she plans to deal with her chemotherapy in a humorous and light manner, which will hit the boob-tube next season.

Stupid contest. Unbelievable contest in a noontime show: Scantily clad women are slathered with sticky liquid before being asked to roll on a floor littered with paper. The woman who gets the highest number of pieces of paper stuck to her body wins. How pathetic! Bring this out on the streets. Turn it into a cleanliness campaign. Have these chicks roll around to pick real trash off our filthy cities and we'd gladly watch.

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